paleoseti

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ANCIENT TECHNOLOGIES, CULTURES AND ADVENTURE

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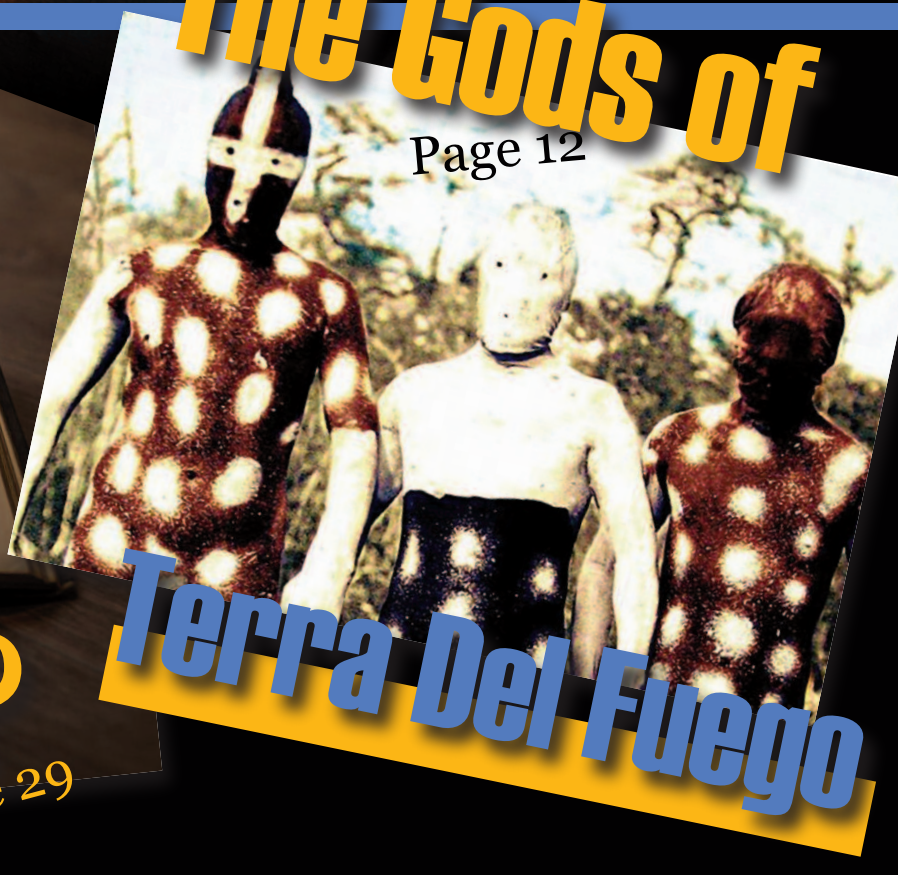

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Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,

Welcome to Issue 10 of PaleoSeti Magazine.

In this issue we have a closer look at strange colors in the ancient world. Where did those colors with their amazing properties come from and what secrets do the hold? Can we find parallels to modern research with light beyond our regular seeing? The results are as surprising as they are important for our understanding of the ancient people.

Our contributor Rafael Videla-Eissman will take you again on a journey to the South American continent where strange, little known customs manifested themselves in ancient times. An interesting "time travel" when the first Explorers met unusual customs at the "end of the world".

We will have a closer look at how parts of the scientific research community "ticks" and we will ask critical and constructive questions for today's archaeological mainstream establishment.

And last but not least we will explore more misunderstood technology depicted in ancient times. These worldwide imagery of ancient high tech weapons will stir your imagination.

Like always, let me thank you for reading our publication and your positive feedback you provide us. I hope you will stay with us for many years to come.

And now, with the year slowly coming to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful new year 2017.

Stay curious!

Sincerely Yours,

Herbert Eisengruber
Editor-in-Chief, *paleoseti magazine*

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Feedback and Contributions:
PaleoSeti Magazine welcomes feedback. We would love to introduce a "Letters to the Editor" section in our next issue. Please send your feedback to the above Email address. Please keep your feedback related to the PaleoSeti (Ancient Astronaut) and Lost Civilization Theories.

If you like to contribute an article to PaleoSeti Magazine, **please contact us at the email address above** including a short description of what your article will be about.
The articles in this issue do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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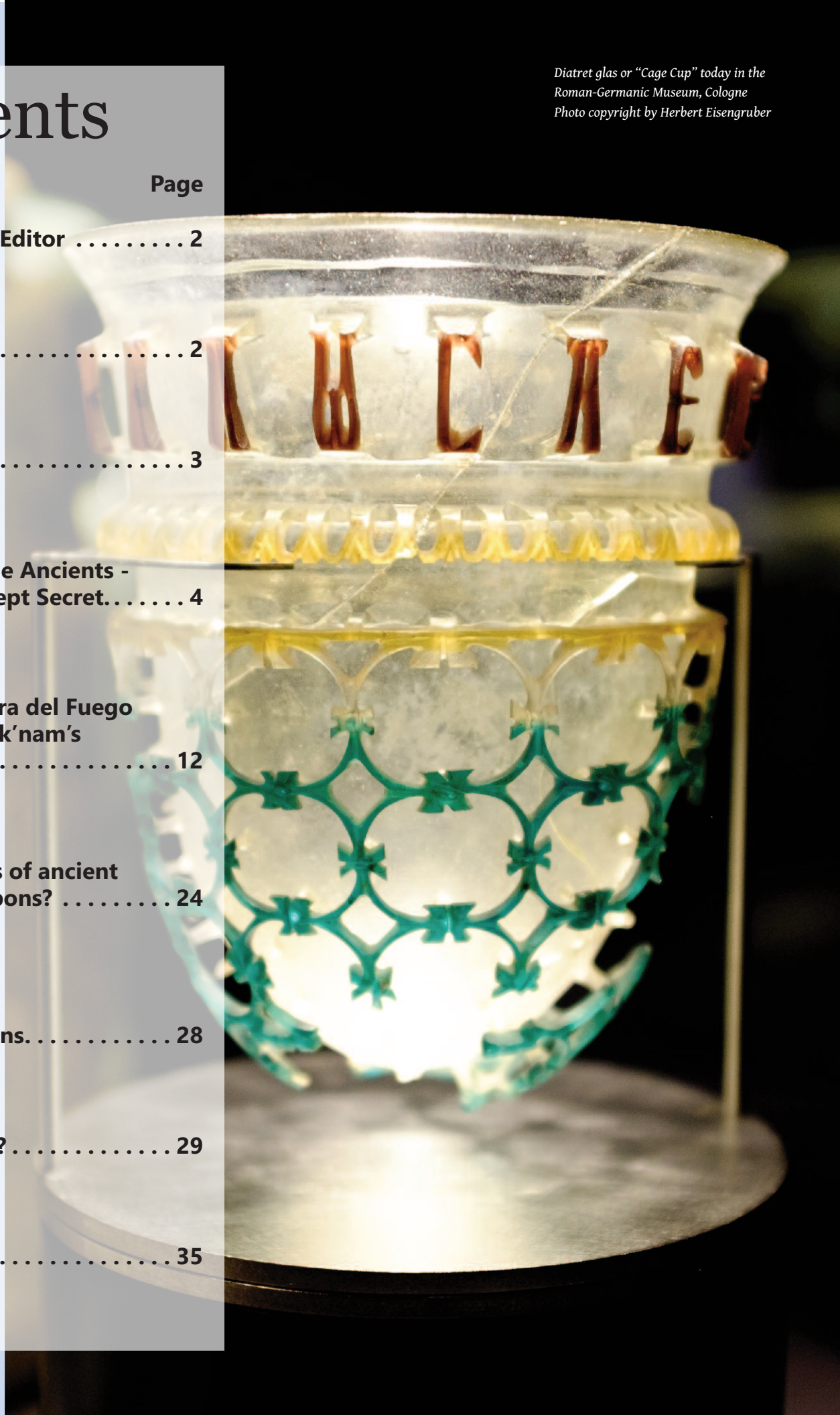


Diatret glas or "Cage Cup" today in the Roman-Germanic Museum, Cologne
Photo copyright by Herbert Eisengruber

The Colors Of The Ancients

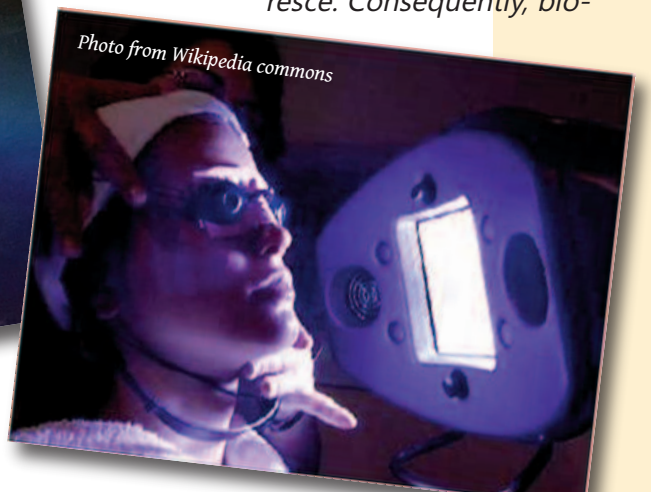
History's best kept Secret

Article by Herbert Eisengruber

What is reality? How do we perceive reality? Is reality the same for everyone or are there variations? These are not new questions, they come up from time to time. One of the most intriguing thought experiments about what reality can mean was written down in 1957 by Russian Science Fiction Author Stanislav Lem. He envisioned a scenario where when an individual's sensual world is completely controlled by an outside source, it would be impossible for that individual to know if their reality is controlled or not. Lem's thought experiment was visualized in recent years by the Hollywood Blockbuster, "The Matrix", and its out-of-this-world bad sequels.

So what is real? Was Stanislav Lem's thought experiment just that – an experiment – or do we have similarities in our world? Yes, we do, we experience it around us every day. Everybody who owns a pet, knows that our little house critters smell and hear better than we do. Their reality is much different than ours. It happens on a different level, a level of heightened perception much different from ours. The world of insects is no different. Insects, such as bees, see in a different wavelength. Their world looks completely different than ours. Evolution worked in a way that flowers are "color-coded" so bees can be guided to be more effective pollinators. Since the bees' seeing is shifted to Ultra-Violet (UV), a camera capable of capturing UV light will reveal a whole different world of reality. [Photo 1] Flowers that look yellow to us, show a completely different pattern when seen through UV sensitive eyes or – in our case – cameras. In modern science, UV light and its properties play an important role. Everybody who ever watched an episode of CSI on TV, knows, that UV light can reveal otherwise hidden remnants of blood stains, for example. Our money

Photo 1: Images of a Mimulus flower in visible light (left) and ultraviolet light (right) showing a dark nectar guide that is visible to bees but not to humans. Source: Wikipedia.

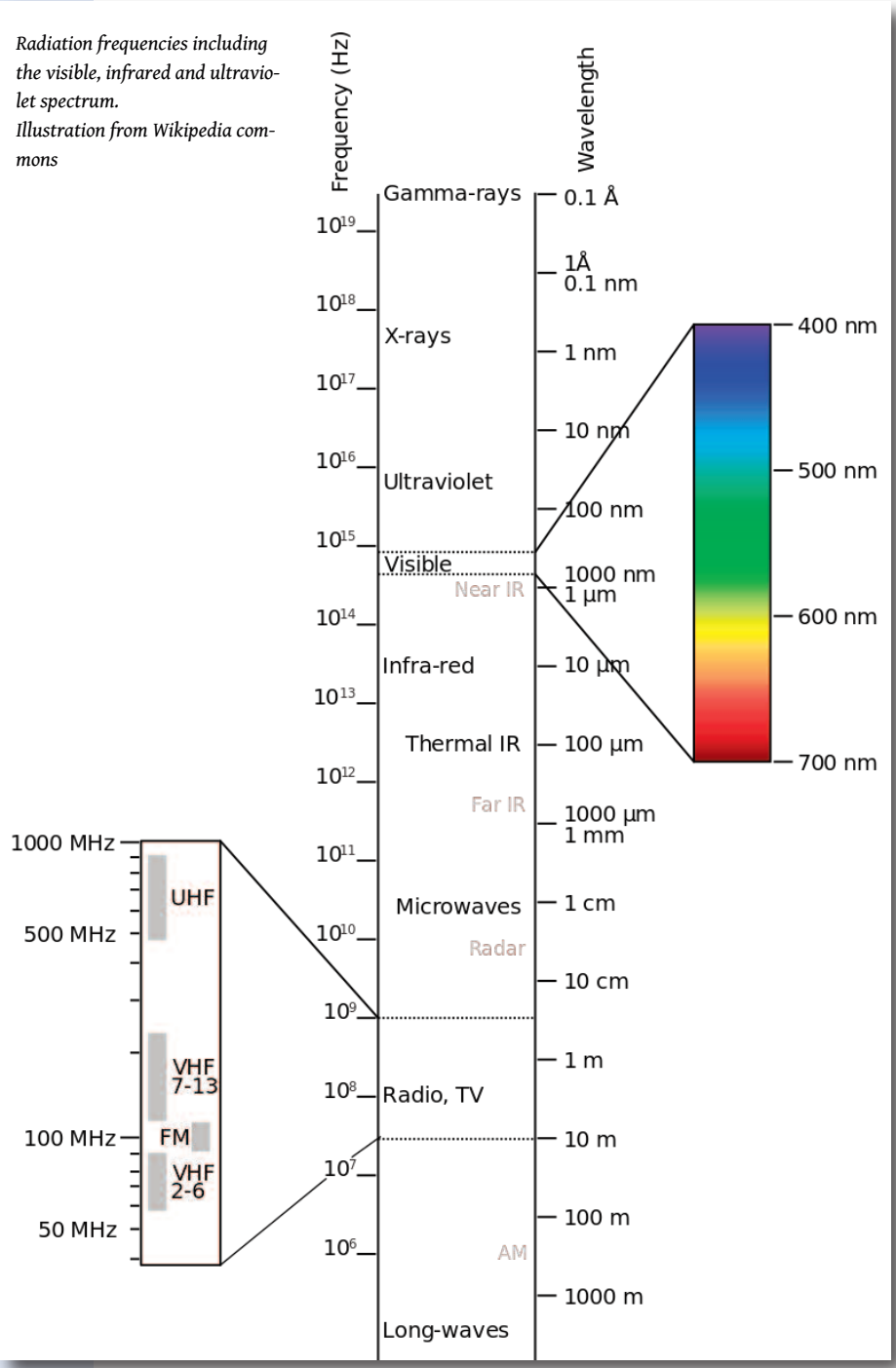


Different uses of UV sensitive imagery and media.
Top: Nearly all modern money is UV coded to prevent counterfeiting.
Right: UV sensitive photography can reveal details on skin otherwise invisible, e.g. skin cancer
Bottom: Use of UV light in Environmental Waters testing. Certain enzymes break down bacteria and - if positive - create a fluorescent glow under UV light
Bottom right: In recent years, UV light is used to treat disorders like moodswings and depression.

is UV encoded, and its authenticity is confirmed with special lamps that emit a light at a certain wavelength which in terms reveals invisible safety markings.

In the medical field, doctors can detect certain skin cancers with UV light, laboratories use UV technology in conjunction with certain enzymes to detect contaminated water. Many more uses of UV light are explored every day. Psychologists are discovering that the lack of exposure to UV light can cause medical conditions like anxiety and depression. On the other side we all are made aware of the dangers of too much UV exposure with the warnings of the dangers of skin cancer especially during the summer months. What exactly is Ultra Violet light? Wikipedia knows more:

"Ultraviolet (UV) is an electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength from 10 nm (30 PHz) to 400 nm (750 THz), shorter than that of visible light but longer than X-rays. UV radiation is present in sunlight. It is also produced by electric arcs and specialized lights such as mercury-vapor lamps, tanning lamps, and black lights. Although lacking the energy to ionize atoms, long-wavelength ultraviolet radiation can cause chemical reactions and causes many substances to glow or fluoresce. Consequently, bio-



Radiation frequencies including the visible, infrared and ultraviolet spectrum. Illustration from Wikipedia commons

logical effects of UV are greater than simple heating effects, and many practical applications of UV radiation derive from its interactions with organic molecules.

Suntan, freckling and sunburn are familiar effects of over-exposure, along with higher risk of skin cancer. Living things on dry land would be severely damaged by ultraviolet radiation from the Sun if most of it were not filtered out by the Earth's atmosphere."

More-energetic, shorter-wavelength "extreme" UV below 121 nm ionizes air so strongly that it is absorbed before it reaches the ground. Ultraviolet is also responsible for the formation of bone-strengthening vitamin D in most land vertebrates, including humans. The UV spectrum thus has effects both beneficial and harmful to human health.

Near-UV radiation is visible to some insects, mammals, and birds. Small birds have a fourth color receptor for ultraviolet rays; this gives birds "true" UV vision.[3] Reindeer use near-UV radiation to see polar bears, who are poorly visible in regular light because they blend in with the snow. UV also allows mammals to see urine trails, which is helpful for prey animals to find food in the wild. The males and females of some butterfly species look identical to the human eye but very different to UV-sensitive eyes—the males sport bright patterns in order to attract the females.[4] Most ultraviolet rays are invisible to most humans: the lens on a human eye ordinarily filters out UVB frequencies or lower, and humans lack color receptor adaptations for ultraviolet rays, so humans don't see many of the "light or colours" certain animals see." [1]

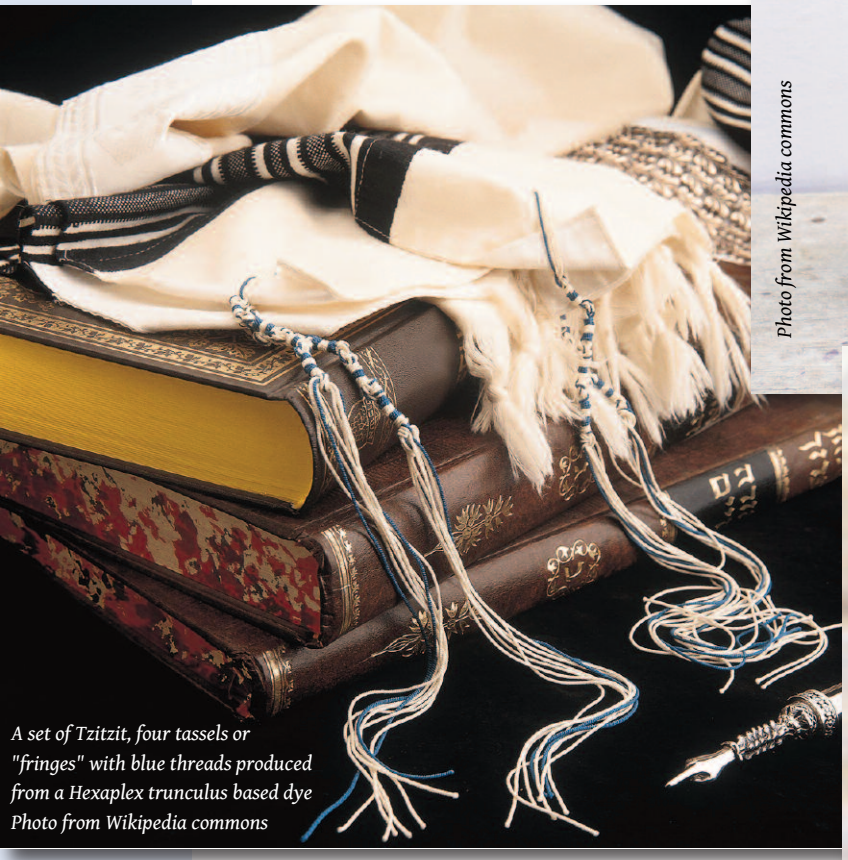
To put it into perspective on a spectrum of visible light, one can see that infrared and ultraviolet are on the opposite ends of the spectrum. [Photo xx]

Regular readers of PaleoSeti Magazine will remember the article "The Secret of Guadalupe" in Issue 5 [2] in which I asked the question if the Image of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City could possibly be an infrared image. Taking photos with an infrared converted camera revealed a strange face on the image which was previously hidden. During my research of the issue, I came across reports that some humans, especially children and young adults, are able to see a bit into the infrared spectrum, at least more than others. I hypothesized that technologically advanced ETs might have taken advantage of this fact and "used" people with this capability of seeing infrared to convey messages. The article stirred up quite a bit of "dust", and I got a lot of positive feedback from it. Could it be that the same is true for the other end of the spectrum, the Ultraviolet end? Interestingly enough, Wikipedia states: "Under some conditions, children and young adults can see ultraviolet down to wavelengths of about 310 nm,[6][7] and people with aphakia (missing lens) or replacement lens[8] can also see some UV wavelengths. People who don't have lenses often report seeing ultraviolet radiation that looks "whitish blue" or "whitish violet". This happens

because humans' three color receptors (red, green and blue) are all sensitive to ultraviolet, so the rays come in as a mixture of the three receptors, with a slight nod to the blue side of the spectrum." [1] Amazing! It seems that – like infrared – the Ultraviolet (or near UV) wavelength can be visible to some select individuals. Did an advanced civilization – most likely not from this world - hide messages in both ends of the visible light spectrum? Or is this just a wild speculation? Can we find proof that in ancient times UV light and colors played a special role? Were infrared and Ultraviolet the "Colors of the Gods"?

Colors always played an important role in the ancient world. In many cultures, colors of garments for example, showed the status of a person. Some colors were even reserved for the kings and the ruling class. Most of the time, this color was Blue or Purple. One very curious example for this is the so called Tekhelet of the Jewish culture. Again, Wikipedia can explain it much better than I ever could:

"Tekhelet (Hebrew ;"blue-violet",[1] or "blue",[2] or "turquoise"[3] (alternate spellings include tekheleth, t'chelet, techelet and techeiles) is a blue dye mentioned 49[4][5] times in the Hebrew Bible/Tanakh. It was used in the clothing of the High Priest, the tapestries in the Tabernacle, and the tassels (Hebrew: Tzitzit [tsitsit], pl. Tzitziyot or iiyot) affixed to the corners of one's four-cornered garment, such as the Tallit (garment worn during prayer, usually)." [4]



A set of Tzitzit, four tassels or "fringes" with blue threads produced from a Hexaplex trunculus based dye Photo from Wikipedia commons

According to the Talmud, the dye of Tekhelet was produced from a marine creature known as the ḥillazon (also spelled Chilazon).[2] According to the Tosefta(Men. 9:6), the ḥillazon is the exclusive source of the dye.

After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans, the sole use of the Tekhelet dye was in Tzitzit. A set of Tzitzit consists of four tassels, some of their strands being Tekhelet, which Rashi describes as green as "poireau," the French word for leek, transliterated into Hebrew. There are three opinions in Rabbinic literature as to how many are to be blue: 2 strings;[6] 1 string;[7] 1 half string.[8] These strands are then threaded and hang down, appearing to be eight. The four strands are passed through a hole 25 to 50 mm away from the corners of the four-cornered cloth.

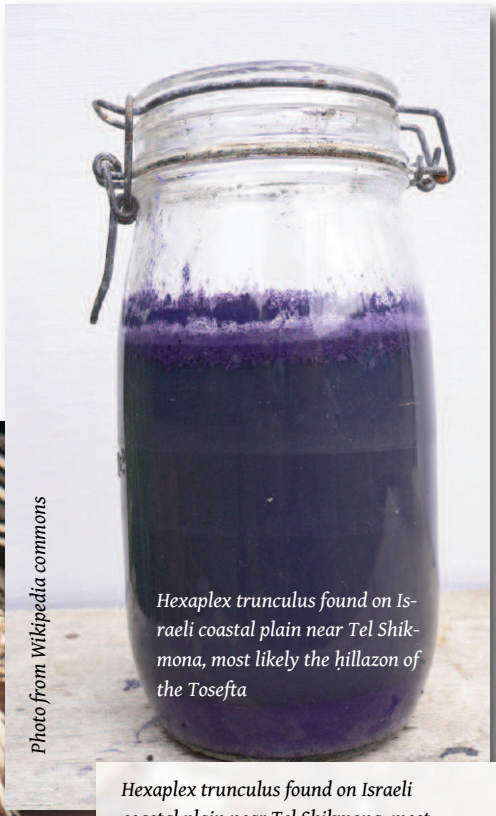


Photo from Wikipedia commons

Hexaplex trunculus found on Israeli coastal plain near Tel Shikmona, most likely the ḥillazon of the Tosefta

Tekhelet is mentioned in the third paragraph of the daily prayers known as the Sh'ma Yisrael ("Hear, [O] Israel"), citing Bemidbar – ParashatShelakh (Book of Numbers 15:37–41)."

Hexaplex trunculus found on Israeli coastal plain near Tel Shikmona, most likely the ḥillazon of the Tosefta

Photo from Wikipedia commons

This Tekhelet-Blue was a curious thing! As stated in the Wikipedia article it was only allowed to be produced by one method, "produced from a marine creature

A guide from the Ptil Tekhelet Foundation shows how a piece of wool, dipped into the solution for the Hexaplex trunculus based dye, turns into leek-like green in sunlight, and eventually into (dark) blue with a purple hue.
From Wikipedia Commons

known as the ☐illazon (also spelled Chilazon).[2] According to the Tosefta(Men. 9:6), the ☐illazon is the exclusive source of the dye".

The ancient Israelites were a very advanced people, they were fantastic builders and architects and knew their way around textiles. They were able to produce blue in many different ways if they wanted to. So what made this Tekhelet-Blue so different? For starters, it was only allowed to be made by very few, specially trained people that guarded its recipe closely. Around 70 AD, the Romans destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, and the Jewish people were banned from living in what is now Israel. With this the knowledge of how to make the Tekhelet – the "True Blue" – was lost. Garments which were formerly dyed with Tekhelet were now no longer in use. The memory of this "True Blue" was only kept alive with the blue tassels at the end of the garments, the Tsitsit, which I wrote about in the last issue of PaleoSeti Magazine. [3] But as time went on, even the blue in the Tsitsit was no longer the original Tekhelet as the knowledge was lost. There were only a few clues in the Jewish Bible, but they were not enough to keep the secret of its production alive. For almost 2000 years the recipe for the original "True Blue" seemed to have been lost to history. Many theories existed on how the original Tekhelet was made, but nobody was able to replicate it with all the requirements as described in the Bible. That was until 1913. Then, in his doctoral thesis, Rabbi Herzog identified the "Hillazon" – the sea creature from which Tekhelet was made – as the "Hexablex Trunculus" (also called the Murex Trunculus), a sea snail that lived in the Mediterranean of what is now known as Israel. Rabbi Herzog's problem: He couldn't consistently reproduce the midnight blue with a purple hue which is described in the Bible. So everybody went back to looking for the elusive "True Blue". In 1960, a patch of blue dye was recovered in the an-

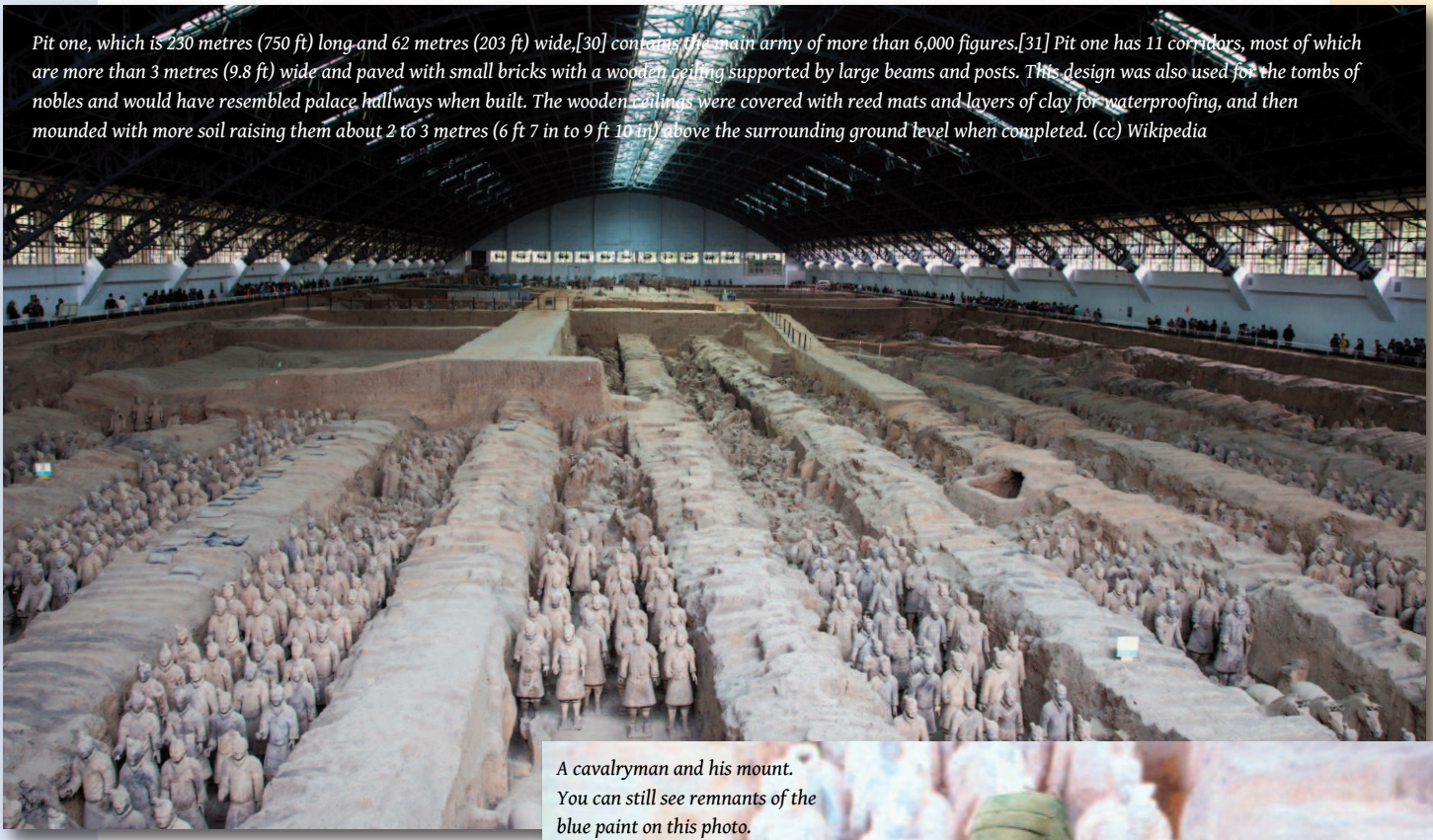
Tzitzit (tassel) with blue thread produced from Hexaplex (Murex) trunculus
From Wikipedia Commons

cient fortress of Masada, the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt during Roman times. A chemical analysis revealed that the dye was made from the Murex Trunculus snail. In 2013, another ancient piece of blue fabric was discovered and analyzed which was dyed with the Murex snail. But the real breakthrough happened in 1980 when the mystery of why Rabbi Herzog couldn't consistently produce the blue dye from the snail. "Otto Elsner, a chemist from the Shenkar College of Fibers in Israel, discovered that if a solution of the dye was exposed to ultraviolet rays, such as from sunlight, blue instead of purple was consistently produced." [4] The mystery of the Tekhelet was solved.

mysterious blue, this "color of god"?

To begin to understand the answers to these questions, we may have to look in the most unexpected place.

In 1974, farmers in the Chinese province of Shaanxi made one of the most significant discoveries in archaeological history. They stumbled upon the mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor. Buried with the Emperor was a stunning collection of clay figurines which went down in history as the "Terracotta Army". In several pits, more than 8000 life sized terracotta warriors, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses and many other figurines were discovered [5]. The discov-

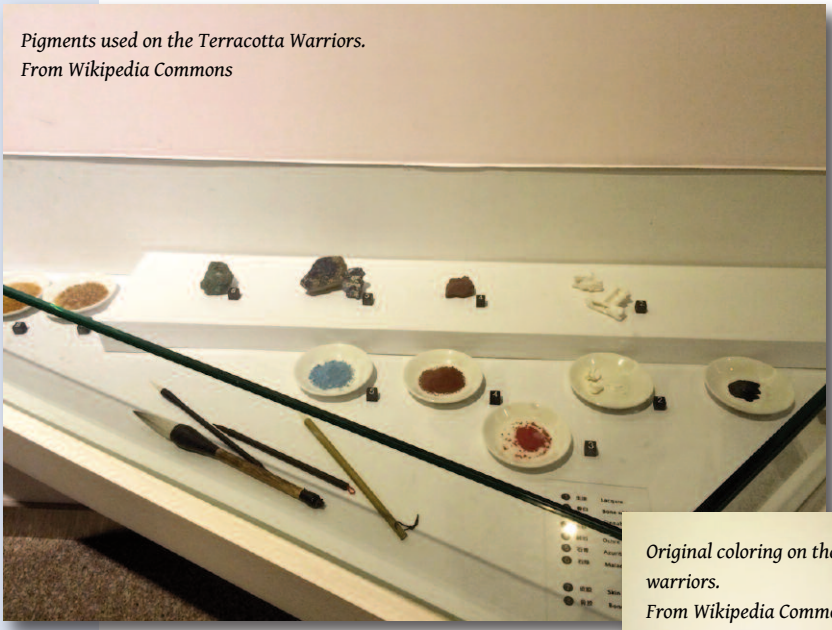


Pit one, which is 230 metres (750 ft) long and 62 metres (203 ft) wide,[30] contains the main army of more than 6,000 figures.[31] Pit one has 11 corridors, most of which are more than 3 metres (9.8 ft) wide and paved with small bricks with a wooden ceiling supported by large beams and posts. This design was also used for the tombs of nobles and would have resembled palace hallways when built. The wooden ceilings were covered with reed mats and layers of clay for waterproofing, and then mounded with more soil raising them about 2 to 3 metres (6 ft 7 in to 9 ft 10 in) above the surrounding ground level when completed. (cc) Wikipedia

A cavalryman and his mount. You can still see remnants of the blue paint on this photo. From Wikipedia Commons

A holy dye that is "activated" by UV rays? Why on Earth would the ancient go through all this trouble? Wouldn't another blue have done just fine? Why only this particular dye which was obviously hard to produce?

As I mentioed in the last issue of PaleoSeti Magazine, [3] the Tsitsit, the sacred knots at the end of the Jewish prayer garments, was a method of preserving complex codes and messages that only certain people can understand. Was the Tekhelet – the UV activated dye – a part of this secret code? Keep in mind that the Tsitsit had to be made out of Tekhelet according to the Jewish Bible. Was there more to this



Pigments used on the Terracotta Warriors.
From Wikipedia Commons

ery was so large in scale that scientific research is still going on to this day, over 40 years later. In 2005, the Chinese news page www.china.org.cn was breaking the following story for example:

"Stunning Metallurgical Advances of Ancient China

Recently, the Emperor Qin Terracotta Warriors National Treasures and Cultural Relics Exhibition displayed bronze swords, copper spears, copper crossbows and other bronze weapons unearthed from the Mausoleum of the first Emperor in Chinese history alongside the tomb's world famous Terracotta Warriors.
Amazingly, the weapons shone without a hint of rust, appearing as new as the day they were buried over 2000 years ago. According to Peng Wen of the Emperor Qin Terra-cotta Museum, the secret lies in chemical chrome plating.
With electron probe micro-analysis and laser analysis, the China Research Institute of Nonferrous Metals and the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences discovered that bronze swords unearthed from the mausoleum are coated with about 10 to 15 microns of chromium salt oxide.
The discovery indicates that during the sword-smithing process, ancient Qin workmen consciously added Chromate and Dichromate to the bronze weapons, producing a light grey or dark gray sheen. The workmen thus improved the corrosion and rust resistance of the weapons, while maintaining their luster and sharpness.
Chromate oxidization is an advanced technique and there are only two ways to achieve it: chemical chrome plating and chromium electroplating. The latter was development during the twentieth century; Germany and the U.S. both claimed patent rights to the process in 1937 and 1950, respectively.
Apparently, the ancient Chinese developed chemical chrome plating techniques more than 2000 years earlier, undoubtedly a miracle in the history of metallurgy. [5]

Original coloring on the warriors.
From Wikipedia Commons

Chrome-plating 2000 years ago. Amazing.
But the real stunner was discovered in 2007. Some of the clay figurines of the Terracotta Army still had remnants of paint on them, and it was clear, pretty early on, that most of the figurines were once painted in bright colors. For closer examination, small samples of paint were taken to be analyzed by the Stanford University and the Advanced Light Source facility in Berkeley, California, using powder diffraction experiments combined with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy and micro-X-ray fluorescence analysis. It turned out that one color in particular – the blue, now also known as Chinese purple – contained barium copper silicate and lead, a very rare combination. It was hypothesized that ancient Chinese alchemists tried to synthesize Jade (also known as Chinese glass) and this deep blue was a byproduct of their efforts as they contained similar ingredients. Jade will be the subject of the lead article in the next issue of PaleoSeti Magazine. It is interesting to mention, that Chinese glass and Chinese purple disappeared from history at the same time about 1500 years ago. But it looked like the blue paint's composition was even more complex as the spectroscopy and the fluorescence analysis could reveal. So a sample of

Southwest Campus of Florida State University: National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. From Wikipedia Commons

understanding in our 21st Century knowledge of physics and that's just mind blowing." [6]

Yes, mind blowing it is! It seems that just like in the ancient cultures, certain blues had truly special ingredients. The question is, if the ancient cultures invented those amazing colors themselves or if the "recipes" came from another source. Those "colors of the gods" might hold the key to secrets long forgotten and specifically and carefully planted and "encoded" for a culture that has the technology to see beyond the conventional visible spectrum. The pursuit of this technology which is potentially embedded in many ancient artifacts might open a completely new field of study. Modern electronics make it easier than ever to expand our limited vision into to new realities. All we have to do is open our (electronic) eyes and look.

the blue paint was taken to Tallahassee, Florida, were the world's strongest magnet – the 45T Hybrid Magnet System -is located in the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. The story was broken in the 2010 documentary, "China's Ghost Army", a New Zealand/Chinese co-production by Steven Talley [6].

The magnet can produce 45 Teslas of magnetic force, which can literally pull screws out of the wall. Only specially trained personnel is allowed in close proximity of the magnet, even if it's turned off. The magnet's purpose is to reveal a material's secrets by placing it into the magnet's core, filling it with liquid helium and cool it down to hundreds of degrees below zero. The following is a quote out of the documentary from 2010: "When we were loading a few flakes of Chinese Purple into the Magnet's core, we saw things never seen before. Inside the magnet, the molecules of Chinese Purple became a single magnetic wave. The team dropped the temperature even farther, and the magnetic wave lost its third dimension, separating into individual two dimensional planes." The physicist, Neil Harrison, describes "Well, when I first saw this, I guess we were just in disbelief. It was a big surprise,...it was a totally new type of discovery. A discovery that might change the world. Because studying shifts from three to two dimensions could make better superconductors and better superconductors could mean more efficient magnetic trains, lower electricity bills and faster computers." Another scientist adds: "It's incredible to think that this material that's been around for no more than 2000 years, that was initially discovered and, in fact, created by Chinese chemists and has been on this Terracotta Army for 2000 years. It's incredible to think that we've re-visited this material, something that's a fundamental advance in our

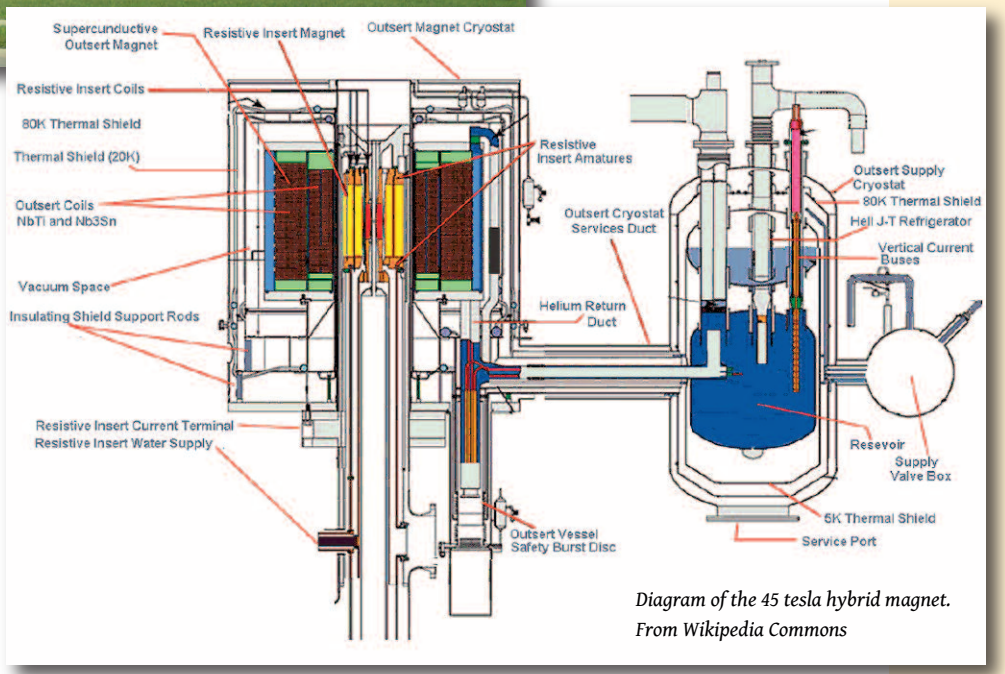


Diagram of the 45 tesla hybrid magnet. From Wikipedia Commons

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultraviolet
[2] "The Secret of Guadelupe" – PaleoSeti Magazine Issue 5
[3] "Sacret Knots – Ancient Disk Drives" – PaleoSeti Magazine Issue 9
[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tekhelet
[5] Chinanews.cn March 17, 2005
[6] "China's Ghost Army", 2010, Producer Steven Talley, NHNZ/National Geographic Channel
Jacobovici, Simcha; "The Naked Archaeologist" Season 1, Episodes 11 "True Blue" & 12 "The Return of the Hillazon"

The Gods of Terra del Fuego

Echoes of the Selk'nam's tradition

Here I am singing, the wind takes me away. I am following the footsteps of those who are gone. I have been allowed to come to the Mountain of Power. I have arrived to the Great Mountain of the Sky, I walk to the House in the Sky.
The power of those who have passed away comes back to me. I enter the House of the Great Mountain of the Sky. Those that dwell in the infinite have spoken to me.

Lola Kiepja (1966)

Article by Rafael Videla Eissman

Ancient cultures of Tierra del Fuego

In 1911, a young Austrian ethnologist and Jesuit missionary by the name of Martin Gusinde (1886-1969), arrived in Santiago de Chile. For the first time in 1918, he travelled to Tierra del Fuego in the extreme South of Chile and Argentina. Since then, he recorded the rich and diverse indigenous cultures in Río Fuego, Estancia Viamonte, Lake Fagnano (K'ami), as well as, Punta Remolino. This is how he got in touch with the Selk'nam – or "Clan of the Chosen Branch", also known as Onas– who shared with him some of their magical and esoteric knowledge such as the Háin Initiation Ritual.
The results of his valuable research are in the following books: *Feuerland Indianer. Band I: Die Selknam (1931), Feuerland Indianer. Band II: Die Yamana (1937) and Anthropologie der Feuerland Indianer* (Two out of three parts of this last work were destroyed during the bombing in Germany in World War II – what was rescued was published later in 1974).
Gusinde recorded the ancient myths and traditions of the last living Selk'nam, whose fate was determined by the European colonialists who arrived to Tierra del Fuego by the end of the 19th century.
his time. An *outsider* [1].

The Myth of the Sun and the Moon: Cran and Cra

In the myth of Cran and Cra, the Sun and the Moon are the most important keys to understand the vision of the world of the Selk'nam. This myth speaks of the usurpation of the power of men by women, consequently obtaining the direction of society, reversing the order that was established by Quenós, the God-Man sent by the Supreme Temáuquel, creator of Heaven and Earth, "Master of Men", "Dweller of High Above" [1], who also sent the Hóhuen (Hóowin), Immortal Beings, who first lived in the world and from where the Selk'nam descended [2].
It was Quenós who created men. One of the informants of Gusinde explained the way he did it: *Quenós went to a swamp and took mud from it, squeezing it in order to eliminate the water that it contained. Then he formed two generative organs, one male and the other one female and placed them on the ground. At night they united, and this is the way the first of our ancestors was born, the first Hóhuen. On the second night, the second Hóhuen appeared and so on.*

Left: The Selk'nam on their legendary path (Ca. 1910). Right: Tierra del Fuego, in the most southern part of South America. It was the land of the Selk'nam.

Two Koshménk standing next to the ceremonial Háin of 1923 (Photo by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

These first men grew immediately, without experiencing the slow development of our children. In a few days they were perfect Selk'nam, tall, slender, well-shaped, strong, skilled hunters and gatherers.

Quenós not only created men, but also taught them how to speak, instructed them in their duties, showing each gender their tasks and obligations and establishing the order of life [3].

The myth of Cran and Cra speaks not only about the confrontation between patriarchate and matriarchate, which also had cosmic consequences, but it is also the basis of their culture.

This myth refers that in the age of the Hóhuen –or ancestors of the Selk'nam of the mythical time–, women guided by Cra tricked men with the aim to establish a matriarchate. Thus, they gathered during several months in a ceremonial hut known as *Háin*. From a crack in the centre of the floor of this hut, a raging and starving female monster emerged from the Underworld: Jálpen. Men, fooled by women, had to take large amounts of guanaco meat to feed this monster so it would not devour their women.

Of course, men knew about Jálpen only from the women and their dramatic screams from the inside of the Háin performed in order to make them believe the women's story. Along with Jálpen, there were other "spirits" that emerged from the underworld.

This trick was discovered by Cran –the husband of Cra– who then told the rest of men. They decided to stop the affront and killed all grown-up women because they have broken the precepts of Quenós. The only woman who managed to escape was Cra, but first she was thrown into the fire getting her face burned. After this, she escaped to the sky where she became the Moon and Cran became the Sun, in everlasting persecution [4].

When the order of Quenós was established again, the Hóhuen –Wacus, Pawus, Senu, Sate Talen, Keyaisk and Yoisik– travelled from the four directions of the island and finally gathered in the mountains of Máustas –in today's Mitre Peninsula–, bringing each of them one stone pillar from each of their *haruwen* or native areas [5]. With these seven pillars they built a new *Háin*. The first four pillars represented the cardinal points and the three remaining an intermediate position. Just as the *ruka* of the Mapuches, the *Háin* was a micro-representation of the cosmos. The territories of the island were divided in more than eighty sections; they were divided by the seven stone pillars of the *Háin* and were known as Sho'on or heavens [6]. Each of these *Sho'on* was represented by a specific figure in their ceremonies characterized by body paintings.

In this sense, Gusinde wrote about the Háin he witnessed in 1923: *The entrance of the hut faced East. This direction corresponds to a remote precept. "The first ancestors wanted that the entrance faced East and, therefore, we have kept that tradition". Our hut of the Klóketen had a diameter of eight meters; the width of the entrance was in a straight line of 4.35 meters, and it became smaller as it would reach up where it ended in a cone. The height of the cone was of almost six meters* [7].

When the Hóhuen built the first *Háin*, they decided to preserve the ceremony, displaying the same representations as before which were performed by women of the "underworld spirits" such as Hó-krek, Koshménk, Kulan, Kulpush, Sho'ort, the Haylían, Tanu and Ulen and

The performers of the Kewánix, a sacred dance related to the spirit-goddess Tanu (Photo by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

the "sky spirits" such as Halaháches, Mátan and, to some extent, K'terrnen, the son of Jálpen.

The Mythical Rite

The performance of the mythical rite of the *Háin* ceremony is "directed" by a *jon* or shaman. The "actors" play solemn movements and positions with the aim to fascinate, impress or scare the observers. It is in the *Háin* initiation ceremony where the young men, or *klóketen*, are taught about their Supreme God Temáuquel, the Hóhuen, the struggle between women and men and their traditions.

It was in 1919 when Gusinde met the jon, Tenenesk, by a lucky coincidence which allowed him to obtain the permission of Tenenesk to record and photograph the sacred *Háin* ceremony four years later.

Left: The powerful jon or shaman Tenenesk (1923). Right: The priest Martin Gusinde (1934).

It is certain, that much of the primary elements of the events, and their initial meanings of the original myth became altered by 1923 [8].

What it is really known of the primitive ceremonies of the Selk'nam? What was the origin of their rituals preserved in the Háin ceremony? Who were the underworld and sky "spirits"? What is the source of the extraordinary conical masks and the symbolism of the Sho'on or heavens represented in their body paintings? All what has been known of the Selk'nam are the records of European scholars educated in the evolutionist theories of the 19th Century rationalism. As a result, besides the valuable works of, for instance Martin Gusinde, there must be no doubt that he filtered or censored the ideas and concepts of the Selk'nam to his Christian faith. Therefore, those entities or gods that emerged from the underworld or *Hollow Earth*, or those sky beings, became "spirits" in order to not contravene his monotheistic faith. And even more, much of the core of the Selk'nam's secret traditions must have been lost forever as their knowledge was absolutely enclosed as anthropologist Carlos Keller has explained in relation to the wisdom of the *jon*: *It is very likely that if you would ask any of them, they would keep completely silent and they would not say a word about what they know* [9].

Along with renewing the myth through the ritual, the re-establishment of the order of Quenós, the Háin ceremony corresponded as well to the initiation of young men to manhood. Their bodies were painted with precise colours and symbols. They were taught the secrets about the origin of the world, the mysteries of the Sun, the Moon and the stars; the secrets of Nature; their magical traditions; hunting and the moral and ethical behaviour to follow [10].

After their initiation they could never reveal what they have learnt. Once all the tests had been passed, the initiate received a triangular hat or *k'ochel*. Then they were recognized as men and were able to marry.

As with all the performances of this ceremony, the Selk'nam performed very dramatic acting and movements.

The fascinating and enigmatic figure of K'terrnen, the son of Jálpen, held by the jon Tenenesk (Photo by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

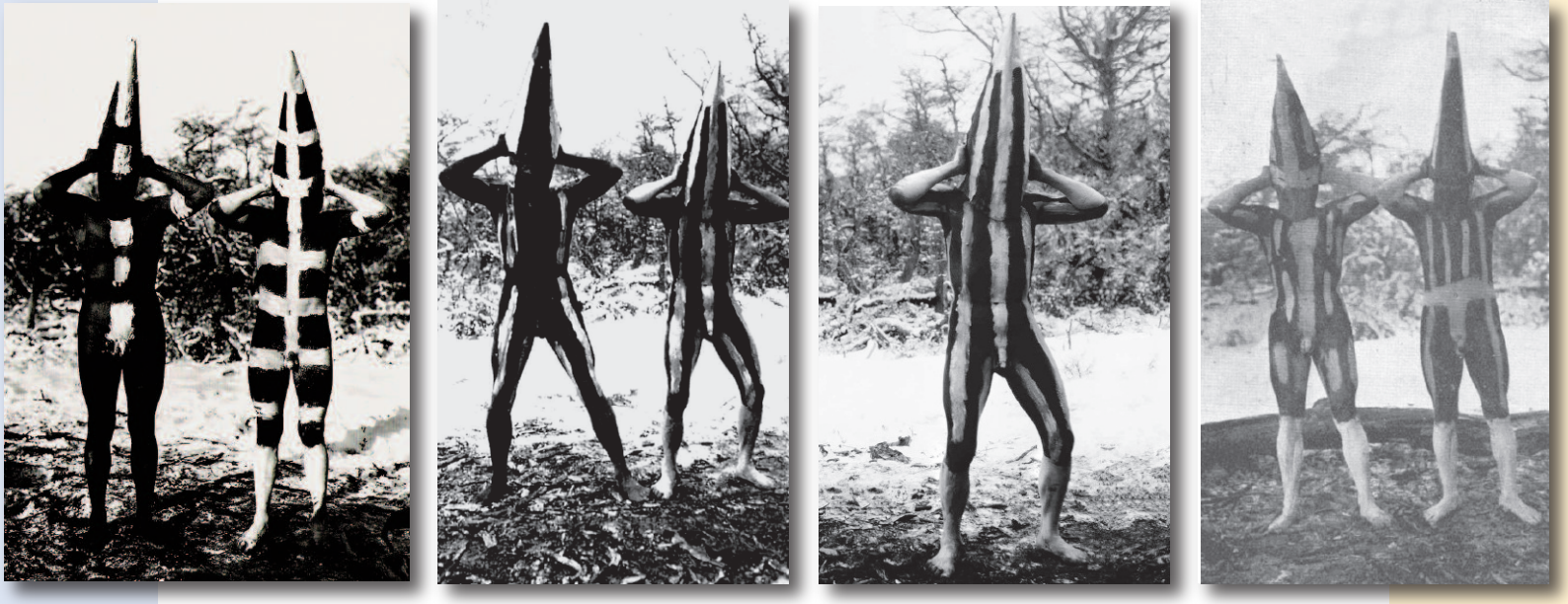
When Jálpen, pregnant by the initiated, was about to give birth, she became very furious and killed most men inside the *Háin*. Another "spirit" that attacked men was Halaháches, "spirit of the sky", also known as Kótaix.
After most men were killed, all became silent. Women wandered around, but could not find the bodies –men had to hide in a nearby forest– until Olum, a small sized being, but a *jon* with great power, would bring the dead back to life. Subsequently, women and men gathered and sang in order to calm down the anger of Jálpen. Only then she gave birth to K'terrnen –the "Man-of-Light"– who, as a new born being, could not walk by himself and had to be helped by the main shaman. His body was covered by light-coloured feathers over the red paint on his body. K'terrnen represented the new cycle. His appearance indicated the end of the ceremony.

The "spirits"

Was a Christian missionary in the first decades of the 20th century able to write about the "gods" of a culture such as the Selk'nam, which had preserved traditions about the underworld and sky deities? Did Gusinde explain the resurrection performed by Olum of the Selk'nam that was preserved in their rituals? Could he have explained the arrival from "high above" of the civilizing Hóhuen? It is not hard to understand the problems Gusinde had to face when he learned about the vast and significant culture of the Selk'nam? Unquestionably, his scientific and religious understanding had filtered their traditions, just as it happened before with the *cronistas*, and the intolerant missionaries in relation to the *idolatrías* on the rest of the continent.
And today, anthropologists and historians are no different with their lack of understanding of reality of the "spirits", and the events preserved in the myths of the Selk'nam.
Who were the "spirits" of the underworld that emerged from a crack inside the sacred space of the *Háin*? Was it just the imagination of the ancient Selk'nam? Was this myth a reason to illustrate the antagonism between patriarchate and matriarchate as some anthropologist or historian would like to interpret it? If so, how can the specific representations of the "spirits" –masks, colours and symbols– be explained?
Indeed, the representations witnessed by Martin Gusinde, and before by Esteban Lucas Bridges, have been important resources to understand a part of the magical and religious world of the Selk'nam, but yet the ceremonial movements observed by these ethnologists was nothing, but a pale reflection of remote events that only with the passage of time became a myth and much later on, a ritual.
Who were those cone-head beings impersonated in the ceremonies? Who was Jálpen, Tanu, Sho'ort, Olum, Halaháches, Hóshtan, Mátan, Ulen or K'terrnen? How did the Selk'nam come to these precise representations? Who were the original models? It is not difficult to see that the origins of these representations go back to the age when the gods of the stars –the extraterrestrials– walked on Earth, *creating* men and giving them the wisdom of fire and the knowledge of Nature.
The fragmentary echoes of that age were preserved in the traditional myths of the Selk'nam.

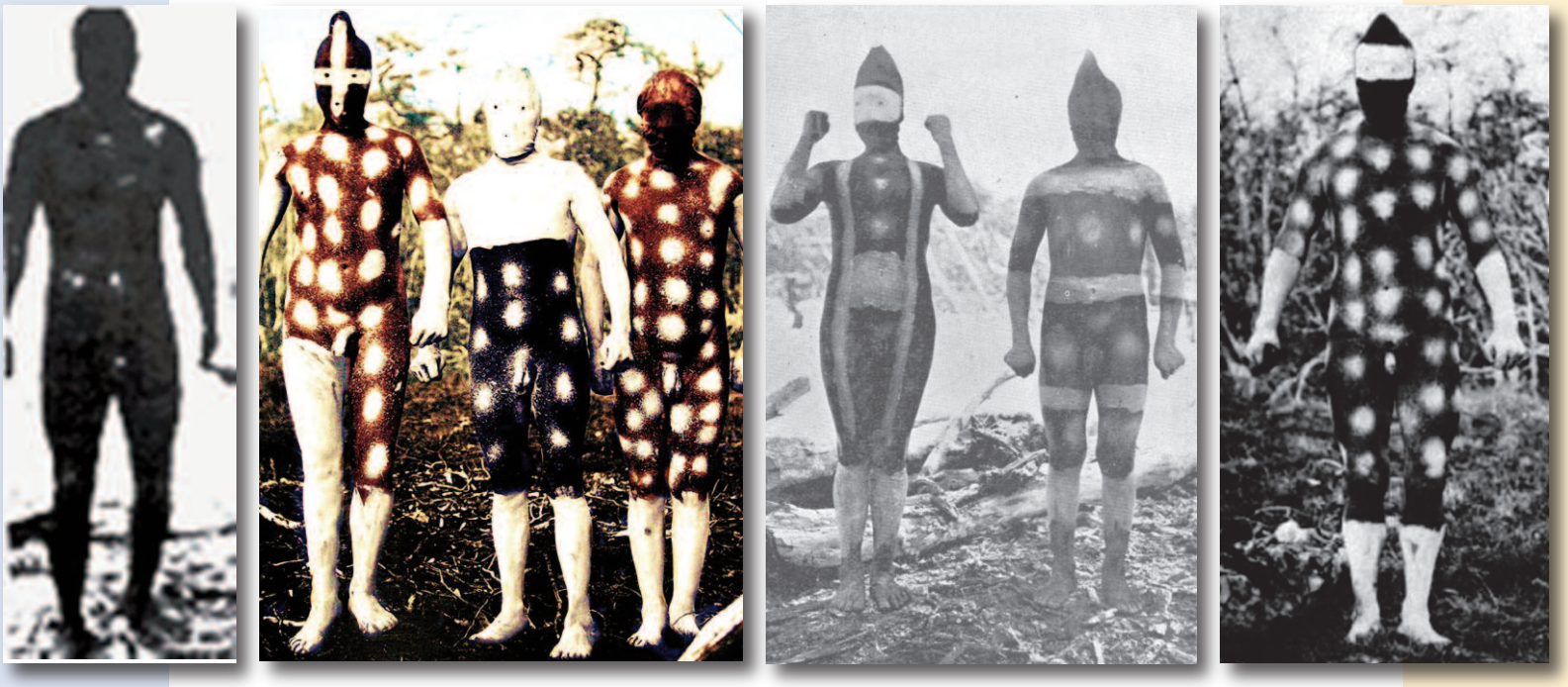
Myth as the Hieroi Logoi

Well known anthropologists, such as Edward Burnett Tylor, Max Müller and James Frazer, have seen in the myths the irrational explanation of primitive people of Nature's phenomena and its laws which were considered as supernatural entities such as gods and spirits. This was where primitive and mythical religions emerged.
As a result, the modern vision of the cosmogonic, teogonic and anthropogenic myths –defined by the



Different representations of the conical headed Koshménk (Photos by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

Left: Keyaisl and Yoisik, Sho'ort of the North and of the South, respectively. Centre: Talen, on the left, was one of the strongest Sho'ort of the North. On the right, one assistant of unknown name. Right: Pawus, Sho'ort of the North (Photos by Martin Gusinde, 1923).



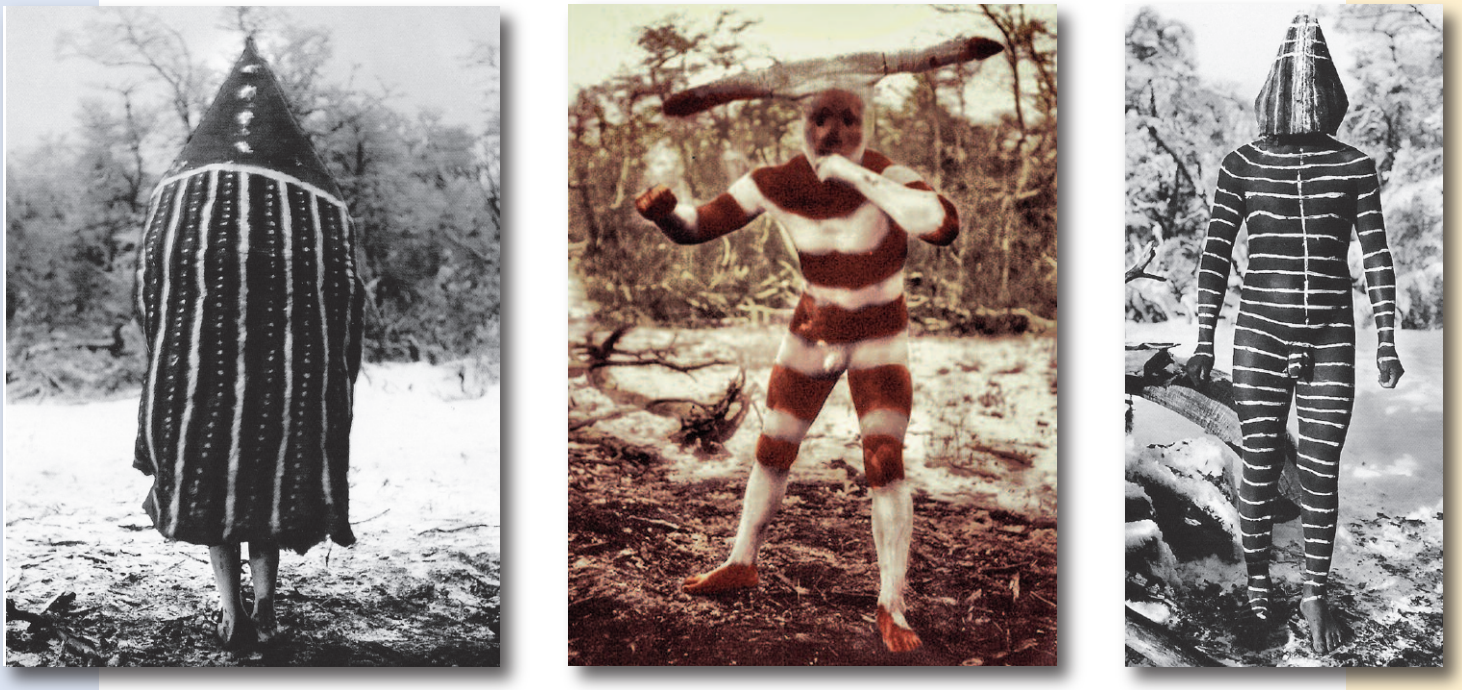
a. Wacus, Sho'ort of the East. b. Sanu, on the left, Sho'ort of the West. Next to him there are two assistants. c, d. Assistants of a Sho'ort. e. Talen, Sho'ort of the North (Photos by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

Decimononic evolutionism and the accepted concept of progress– has considered the myths as a psychological and social function that can be explained by the primitive mental structure of men.

This tendency forgets, or rather ignores, that myth –*Mythoi*– is *Logos*, the "True Word", a sacred narration, and, therefore, implies the transmission of knowledge of ancient facts. Thus, myth is *Hieroi Logoi*, the *Sacred Word* [11].

Certainly, myths are covered with symbolic, magical, social and ethical factors, but in their core they contain a past reality, real people and facts that only with the passage of time *became* mythical. The god-men and their wonders, inconceivable for modern mentality shaped by materialism and rationalism, were real and not the result of primitive thinking or imagination. Their deeds came to be the foundational milestones of cultures, and they became deified beings.

The struggle between women and men in the Selk'nam tradition –matriarchate against patriarchate– present



Left: Keyaisl and Yoisik, Sho'ort of the North and of the South, respectively. Centre: Talen, on the left, was one of the strongest Sho'ort of the North. On the right, one assistant of unknown name. Right: Pawus, Sho'ort of the North (Photos by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

Left: Keyaisl and Yoisik, Sho'ort of the North and of the South, respectively. Centre: Talen, on the left, was one of the strongest Sho'ort of the North. On the right, one assistant of unknown name. Right: Pawus, Sho'ort of the North (Photos by Martin Gusinde, 1923).

in other indigenous cultures as well , was also a symbolic representation of the last world-wide catastrophe, or Deluge, encoded in the *Háin* ceremony of the Selk'nam and the *Kina* of the Yámanas: It is the struggle between the lunar-female energies over the solar-male's, both in the human and cosmic fields as it is explained in several myths [12].

Thus, following the ideas of Professor Roberto Rengifo in relation to the Antarctic origin of humankind, it is a fundamental task to deepen the knowledge of the ancient primitive cultures of Patagonia and Araucanía, such as the Selk'nam, the Haush (Manek'enk), Yámanas (Yáganes), Kawashkar (Alacalufes). And even the Chonos, Tehuelches (Aonikenk) and Mapuches (Araucanos) expressed in their sacred cosmogonic and anthropogenic myths the fragments of the traditions and symbols of the *Lituche* or *Glyche*, the survivors of the Great Deluge, the "first men" whose origins are traced to the Antarctic continent until the conquest and colonial times of Chile.

Was the conical headdress a reminiscence of the elongated-skull population found throughout America? a. A Yámana with conical mask in the ceremonial hat Kina (Photo by Martin Gusinde, 1923). b. Anthropomorphic figure found in the South of Chile of 350 mm height. It presents, too, a conical headdress (Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino de Santiago). c. Elongated skull found in Tiahuanaco (Museo del Sitio Tiwanaku). d. Elongated skull found in December 2012 near Onavas, south of Sonora, in Mexico.

The Mystery of Antarctica

In an essay titled *Los chiles*, published in Santiago de Chile in 1921, Professor Rengifo suggested an Antarctic origin of humankind [13] .

Such an extraordinary idea has been ignored by orthodox scholars and supporters of evolutionary and diffusionist theories. Indubitably, the ideas of Rengifo go against main stream history concerning the appearance of humankind and its migrations.

By that time, the first decades of the 20th Century, the multifaceted researcher Francisco P. Moreno, stated to have found the origins of humankind in Patagonia, the Antarctic zoogenic centre [14]. And the archaeologist Arthur Posnansky, in his voluminous book *Tihuanacu: La cuna del hombre americano* ("Tiahuanaco: The cradle of American man") proposed a similar idea. As a matter of fact, the original title of the book was *Tiahuanacu: Cuna de la humanidad* ("Tiahuanaco: The cradle of humankind") [15].

These authors –Moreno, Rengifo and Posnansky– found archaeological and cultural evidence of the antiquity of American man which simply contravene the orthodox dogmas and its chronology.

Several scholars and researchers, such as José Toribio Medina, Diego Barros Arana, Víctor Larco Herrera, Percy Harrison Fawcett, Belisario Díaz Romero, Adolph Bandelier and Edmund Kiss –along with Rengifo and Moreno– have recognized an older antiquity in Pre-Columbian cultures and civilizations which do not belong to any indigenous groups, but to a primeval race.

In relation to the diluvial tradition, Rengifo wrote in 1935: *Since the appearance of the Homo sapiens, the tradition does not record another great catastrophe than the Deluge. According to different nations that have preserved the memory of this event, most of them place it close to the appearance of man, which means that the first traditional record was the Deluge, the flood and the sinking of the lands. If the first humans lived in the Antarctic regions and from them come the oldest tradition, it is then required that around them the catastrophe may have taken place and therefore, in the southern part of America. It was perhaps the sinking of the land that used to be around the South Pole and where I have stated that humankind appeared* [16].

Interestingly enough, the Antarctic origin of humankind proposed by Rengifo, finds an echo in Professor Posnansky's view of the sunken continent of Atlantis. Posnansky stated in 1919: *In the next catastrophe, the water of the oceans will go from South to North, covering a great part of Europe, Asia and the northern part of America, discovering with this event in the southern hemisphere again the legendary Atlantis, which its existence and disappearance has stated Plato, Homero, Diodoro from Sicily and others* [17].

In consequence, Posnansky was perhaps one the first authors to refer to Atlantis as the Antarctic. And Rengifo himself detected a petroglyph in Nahuelbuta, in the South of Chile, as the *Palace of Poseidon, King of Atlantis* [18].

The Antarctic origins would partially explain the knowledge recorded in ancient maps –such as the maps of

Francesco Rosselli (1508-1521), Piri Reis (1513), Lopo Homem (1519), Orontius Finaeus (1531), Giorgio Sideri Callapoda (1537), Gerard de Jode (1593), Matthias Quad (1600) and Phillippe Buache (1754)– which show the geography of Antarctica before it was "discovered" in 1820 by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Lazarev, or one year later by John Davis.

It might have been possible that Rengifo based his ideas about the Antarctic origin of humankind in the work of John Dalton Hooker who proposed in 1860 the existence in remote geological ages of a great polar continent that he called Antartico, which covered much of today's surface of Antarctica, Patagonia, Australia and New Zealand [19]. Also, Rengifo could have based his ideas in the studies of Moreno presented in the *Sociedad Científica de Argentina* –which had its homologue in Santiago– but yet, the only quotation given by Rengifo are the following paragraphs of the Spanish soldier and cronista Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga in his work La Araucana (1569, 1578 y 1589), where he wrote:

Chile, fertile and known land
in the famous Antarctic region
from ancient nations respected
because of being strong, important and powerful.

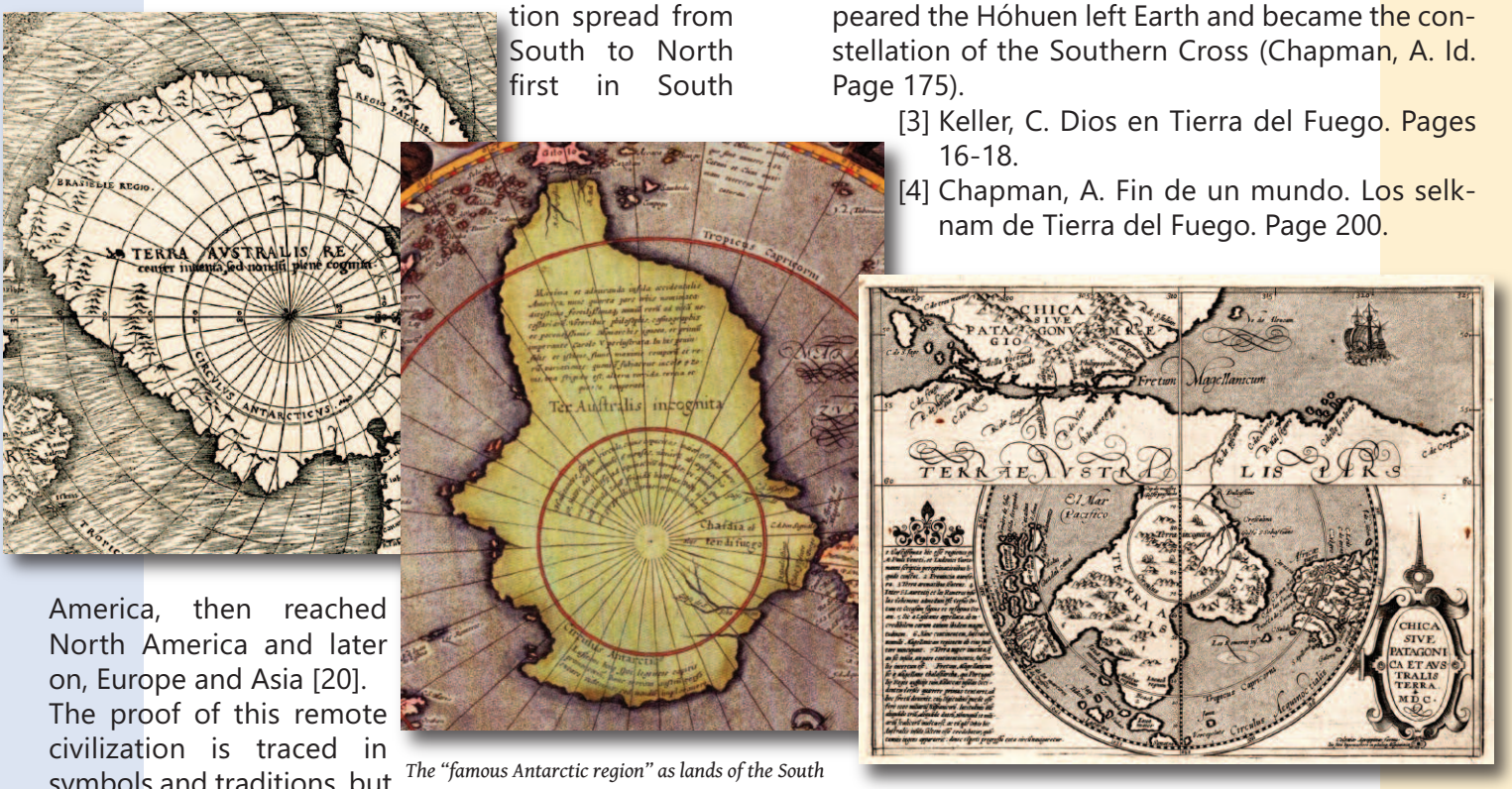
From Antarctica, humankind reached Patagonia. According to Rengifo, from this primitive group, civilization spread from South to North first in South America, then reached North America and later on, Europe and Asia [20].

The proof of this remote civilization is traced in symbols and traditions, but especially in the astronomical-megalithic constructions found in Patagonia –such as menhirs and dolmens– and in the Andean world which has no relation to the indigenous groups that populated the continent, millennia later, through the Bering Strait.

The heritage of the Antarctic civilization

After the Great Catastrophe, or as Rengifo pointed out, *the sinking of the lands that surrounded the South Pole from where the oldest t*raditions come from, the survivors reached Patagonia. These survivors of the Deluge were the *Viracochas*, or *White Gods,* of Ancient America. Their continental starting point according to archaeologist Adolph Bandelier is found in Chiloé [21], in the same area that centuries later will be known as the *City of the Caesars* –la "*Ciudad de los Césares*"– whose last inhabitants were witnessed by Spanish explorers who described them as *very tall people, giant-like, so tall, that because of their size they cannot ride horses, but walk* [22].

Thus, the Viracochas, after the New Age or New Sun had begun, raised a new culture and reaching the highlands of actual Bolivia in their South to North migration, founded their magical-religious centre: Tiahuanaco, the *Metropolis of the Viracochas*.



The "famous Antarctic region" as lands of the South Pole was referred by Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga. Antarctica is the cradle of humankind for Professor Roberto Rengifo. Left: Detail of the map by Orontius Finaeus of 1531 where Antarctic appears as Terra Avstralis. Centre: Detail of the map of Gerard de Jode, Hemispheri ab æqvinoctiali linea, ad circvlv poli Aatartitci of 1593 in which appears a large continental land in the South Pole denominated as Terra Australis Incognita. Right: The 1600 map, Chica sive Patagonica et Australis Terra of Matthias Quad. South to the Strait of Magellan appears Antarctica.

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[1] Keller, C. Dios en Tierra del Fuego. Page 13.

[2] Chapman, A. Fin de un mundo. Los selknam de Tierra del Fuego. Page 200. Only when death appeared the Hóhuen left Earth and became the constellation of the Southern Cross (Chapman, A. Id. Page 175).

[3] Keller, C. Dios en Tierra del Fuego. Pages 16-18.

[4] Chapman, A. Fin de un mundo. Los selknam de Tierra del Fuego. Page 200.

The Pre-Columbian iconography shows the migration of the Viracochas. a. The encounter of a European and a giant –or Viracocha– in Patagonia (Anonymous, 18th century). b. A 1871 illustration of a Patagonian (left) and a Fueguinian (right). According to Francisco P. Moreno, the Selk'nam or Ona is the Ahonnekenke of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego is the last refuge of the authentic giant of the time of Magellan. c. A petroglyph at Chusmiza, in the Region of Tarapacá, in the North of Chile, which describes Huirajocha Tauapacac, this is, the Supreme Viracocha. d. A Yámana with a sacred feather headdress (Photo by Martin Gusinde, 1923). e. Huirajocha Tauapacac in the Sun Gate of Tiahuanaco, the Metropolis of the Viracochas.

[5] Chapman, A. Fin de un mundo. Los selknam de Tierra del Fuego. Page 204.

[6] Each of these heavens had a sacred tree that supported them. This concept has clear similarity with the Quetzalhuexolotl, or "Beautiful Willow", the tree that holds the heaven after the Deluge in the Mesoamerican tradition.

[7] See Gusinde, M. Die Feuerland Indianer. Band I: Die Selk'nam: vom Leben und Denken eines Jägervolkes auf der Grossen Feuerlandinsel (Verlag der Internationalen Zeitschrift "Anthropos". Mödling bei Wien, 1931).

[8] Just as it happens, for example, with Christianity, whose symbols and meanings belong to ancient traditions of India, Mesopotamia and Egypt which are practically unknown to most Christians.

[9] Keller, C. Dios en Tierra del Fuego. Page 101.

[10] Chapman, A. Fin de un mundo. Los selknam de Tierra del Fuego. Page 214.

[11] Elíade, M. Mito y realidad. Page 17.

[12] See Videla Eissmann, R. Mitos del Polo Antártico.

Cosmogonía y antropogonía de la civilización prediluvial (Editorial JG. Quito, 2012).

[13] Rengifo proposed the Antarctic Polar origin of humankind in Los chiles (1921) and in El papel del territorio de Chile en la evolución de la humanidad prehistórica (1935).

[14] See Francisco P. Moreno, Patagonia. Resto de un antiguo continente hoy sumergido (In: Anales de la Sociedad Científica Argentina. Buenos Aires, 15 de Julio 1882) and El origen del hombre sudamericano. Razas y civilizaciones de este continente (Imprenta de Pablo Coni. Buenos Aires, 1882).

[15] See Arthur Posnansky, Las Américas ¿son un Nuevo Mundo o un mundo mucho más antiguo que Europa y Asia? (Editorial del Instituto Tihuanacu de Antropología, Etnografía y Prehistoria. La Paz, 1943); ¿Es o no oriundo el hombre americano en América? (n.d.) and Tihuanacu: La cuna del hombre americano / Tihuanacu: The Cradle of American Man (Tomo I. Editado por Arthur James F. Shearer. Texto bilingüe. J. J. Augustin. New York, 1945; Tomo II. Editado por Arthur James F. Shearer. Texto bilingüe. J. J. Augustin. New York, 1957; Tomo III y IV. Editorial Don Bosco. Ministerio de Educación de la República de Bolivia. La Paz, 1957).

[16] Rengifo, R. El papel del territorio de Chile en la evolución de la humanidad prehistórica. Page 7.1957).

[17] Posnansky, A. La Hora Futura. Pages 103-104.

[18] De la Vega, D. Petroglifos. En: Las Últimas Noticias, February 10, 1998 [1948].

[19] See John Dalton Hooker, Botany (London, 1876); Journal of the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks,... during Captain Cook's first voyage in H. M. S. Endeavour in 1768-1771 to Terra del Fuego, Otahite, New Zealand, Australia, the Dutch East Indies, etc. (London & New York, 1896) and The Botany of the Antarctic voyage of H.M. discovery ships Erebus and Terror in the years 1839-1843, under the command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross. I-II: Flora Antarctica; III-IV: Flora Novae Zelandiae y V-VII: Flora Tasmaniae (London, 1844-57).

[20] See the Commentaries to Mr. Rengifo in Rengifo, R. El Secreto de la América Aborigen. IV. Extractos de Actas de la Sociedad Científica en el año 1920 [1921].

[21] The tradition that the indigenous people communicated to the Conquistadores and missionaries referred to the origins of the god-men in the extreme South of Chile, a fact that led Bandelier to declare that Tiahuanaco was built by people that came from the South, the chiloés (Lauri, Y. B. Una atrevida interpretación de la Portada del Sol. Página 622). The chiloés or chiles became known in the Andean highlands as Viracochas –Huaracochas– due to their knowledge of metallurgy.

[22] De Angelis, P. Derroteros y viages à la Ciudad Encantada, ó de los Césares. Que se creía existiese en la Cordillera, al sud de Valdivia. Pages 25-26 (The original text in Spanish refers: Una gente muy crecida y agigantada, tanto, que por el tamaño del cuerpo no pueden andar a caballo sino a pie).

[22] De Angelis, P. Derroteros y viages à la Ciudad Encantada, ó de los Césares. Que se creía existiese en la Cordillera, al sud de Valdivia. Pages 25-26 (The original text in Spanish refers: Una gente muy crecida y agigantada, tanto, que por el tamaño del cuerpo no pueden andar a caballo sino a pie).

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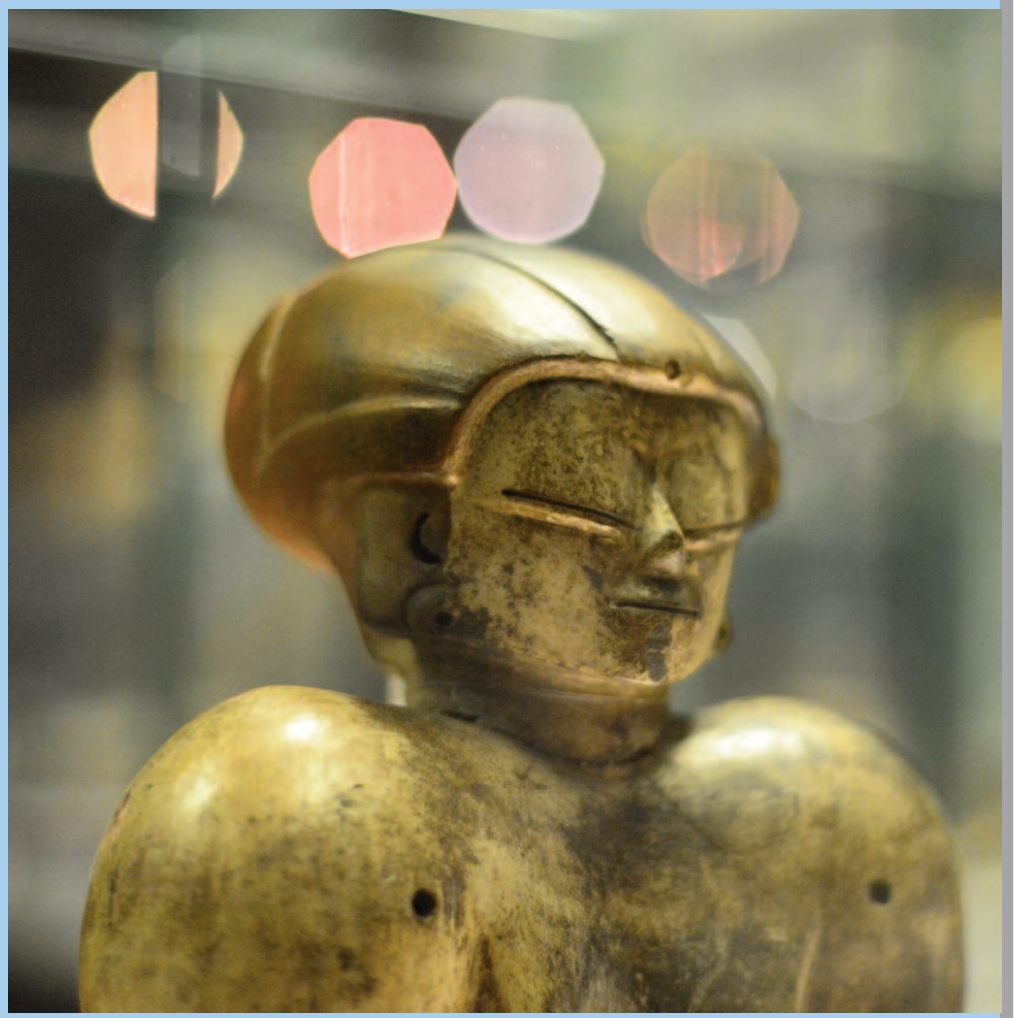

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Missunderstood technology
Representations of ancient
High-Tech Weapons?

A Vajra from Tibet
Photo copyright by Herbert Eisengruber

Article by Herbert Eisengruber

What do all civilizations, tribes and peoples that have ever existed on this planet have in common? They all – without exceptions – developed weapons of some sort. In fact, weapons have always been the deciding factor for a civilization's survival and progress. To this day it is true that whoever owns the biggest weapons (or military) has the most power.

If we are to assume that extraterrestrial visitors visited Earth in a remote past, we can safely assume that they were in possession of powerful weapons. The ancient mythologies are full of legends that describe battles and whole wars among the gods, which ended in enormous destruction.

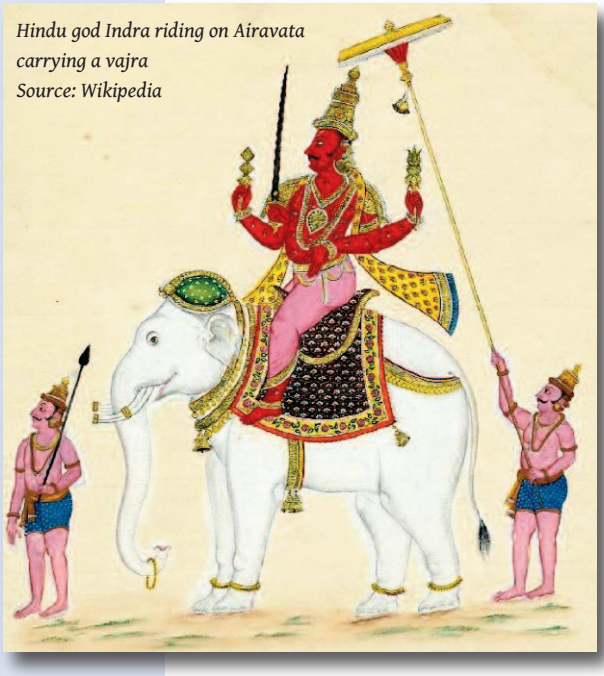
The Indian Vedas Epics for example describe in great detail – among other things - flying craft (Vimanas), the gods who piloted them and the weapons they used. Many of the described weapons seemed to have been large scale WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction), which were able to annihilate whole cities, very similar to our modern day nuclear bombs. We will talk about those in more detail in a later issue of PaleoSeti Magazine. Today, I want to focus on an interesting object called the "Vajra" (sometimes also called "Dorje"). The Vajra is an ancient object found in many Asian countries like India, Tibet and Japan.

"The earliest mention of the vajra is in the Rigveda, part of the four Vedas. It is described as the weapon of Indra, the god of heaven and the chief deity of the Rigvedic pantheon. Indra is described as using the vajra to kill sinners and ignorant persons. The Rigveda states that the weapon was made for Indra by Tvastar, the maker of divine instruments. The associated story describes Indra using the vajra, which he held in his hand, to slay the asura Vritra, who took the form of a serpent [1].]" [2]

An Indian Vajra
Source: Wikipedia; Author: Tonii

The great vajra in front of the great stupa in Katmandu, Nepal
Source: Wikipedia

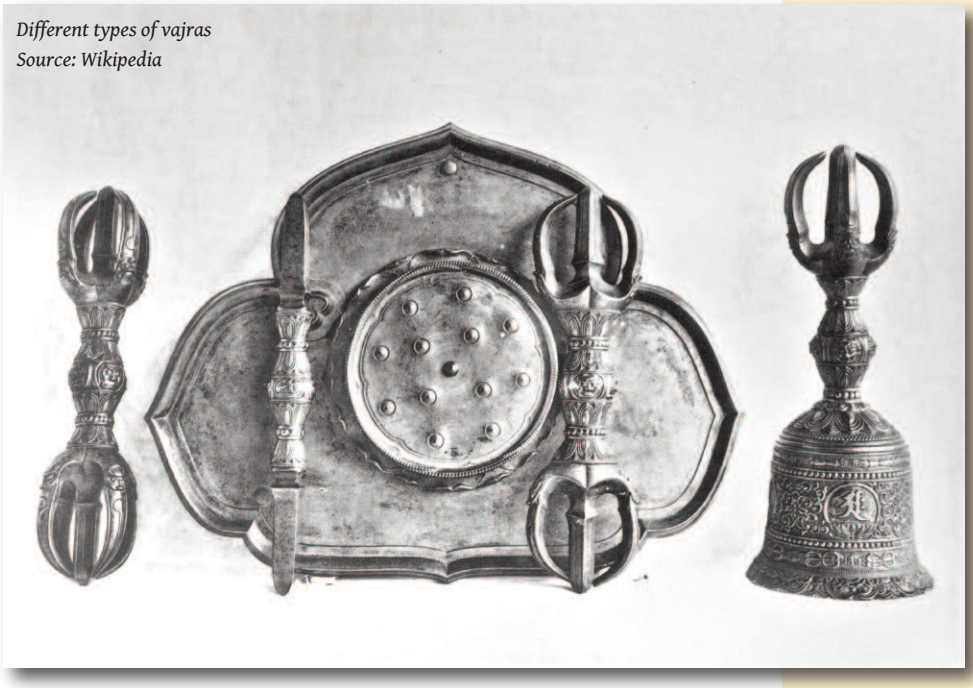
The interesting part of the Varja story is, that there are many depictions of what it once looked like. These ancient depictions come in many shapes and sizes, from weighing as much as a small car to little versions the size of a modern key-chain [Photos 1-5]. They show slight variations of the same theme. The object had a very distinct shape of having two bulbous, caged ends with a thin part in the middle which contains some kind of round handle. The object has a very distinct technical look to it and is not at all related to more common ancient weapons like arrows or spears.



Hindu god Indra riding on Airavata carrying a vajra
Source: Wikipedia

It is interesting that the oldest record of the Vajra in the Rigveda (see quote above) is purely speaking of it being a powerful weapon without any added symbolism. Later mentions of the Vajra, in other branches of religion, seem to have added symbolism surrounding the object:

"In the tantric traditions of Buddhism, the vajra is a symbol for the nature of reality, or sunyata, indicating endless creativity, potency, and skillful activity. The term is employed extensively in tantric literature: the



Different types of vajras
Source: Wikipedia

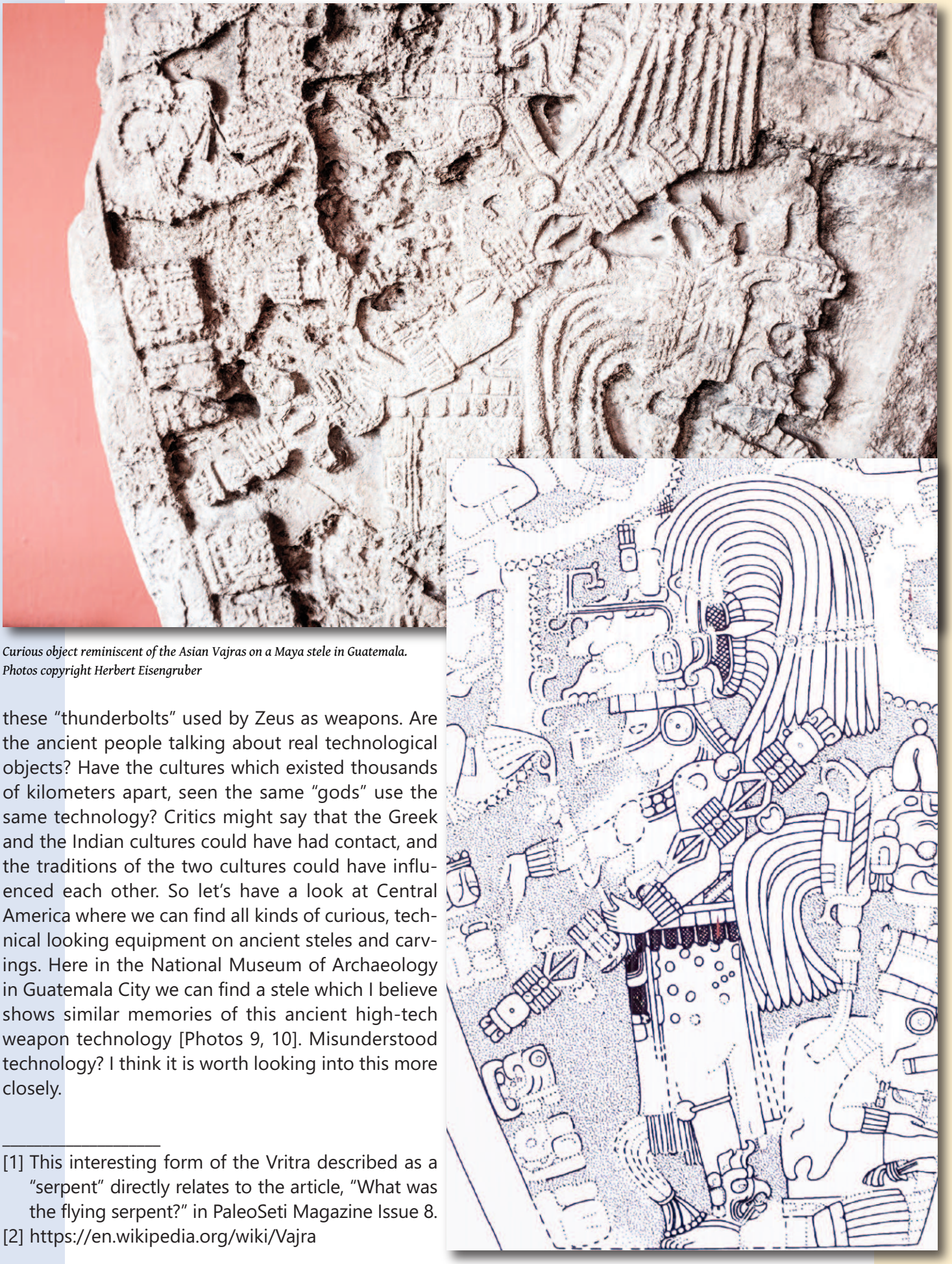
The Greek god Zeuss. Note the "lighting rod" and the similarity to the Asian Vajras
Photo Maria Daniels; Courtesy: Musee du Louvre

term for the spiritual teacher is the vajracharya; one of the five dhyani buddhas is vajrasattva, and so on. The practice of prefixing terms, names, places, and so on by vajra represents the conscious attempt to recognize the transcendental aspect of all phenomena; it became part of the process of "sacramentalizing" the activities of the spiritual practitioner

and encouraged him to engage all his psychophysical energies in the spiritual life." [2]

This clearly shows how real objects get trivialized by philosophical and religious "add-ons" over time. It's exactly these later "add-ons" that modern scholars seem to focus on when they talk about ancient objects and myths like these.

The Vajra by itself would be a highly interesting object for anybody who is brave enough to think outside the box and looks at it with modern, technical eyes. But in PaleoSeti, we always want to take a step back and look at a bigger, worldwide picture. If we assume that objects like the Vajra might have been actual technical instruments – or weapons in this case – we can also assume that similar ancient depictions can be found in other parts of the world. And this is exactly the case. A few thousand kilometers to the East on the planet we find the ancient Greek culture with its rich mythology and many powerful gods. One of them – the "boss" of them all – was Zeus. This is the guy many people know is depicted with holding "thunderbolts" in his hand. The further we go back in time to look at depictions of Zeus, the more interesting those "thunderbolts" get. Just look at some of the depictions of them in Photos 6-8 and compare them to the Indian/Tibetan representations of Photos 1-5. The similarities are stunning,, in my opinion. The ancient Greek also clearly talked about



Curious object reminiscent of the Asian Vajras on a Maya stele in Guatemala. Photos copyright Herbert Eisengruber

these "thunderbolts" used by Zeus as weapons. Are the ancient people talking about real technological objects? Have the cultures which existed thousands of kilometers apart, seen the same "gods" use the same technology? Critics might say that the Greek and the Indian cultures could have had contact, and the traditions of the two cultures could have influenced each other. So let's have a look at Central America where we can find all kinds of curious, technical looking equipment on ancient steles and carvings. Here in the National Museum of Archaeology in Guatemala City we can find a stele which I believe shows similar memories of this ancient high-tech weapon technology [Photos 9, 10]. Misunderstood technology? I think it is worth looking into this more closely.

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[1] This interesting form of the Vritra described as a "serpent" directly relates to the article, "What was the flying serpent?" in PaleoSeti Magazine Issue 8.

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vajra

Book & Film Recommendations

In every issue, we are going to suggest book and/or film titles that are of interest to the PaleoSeti or Lost Civilization Theories.

Review by Herbert Eisengruber

Arrival

No, I won't spoil this movie for you. And yes, this is the first time I will write about a Hollywood Blockbuster in PaleoSeti Magazine. This film is something special. Not only because it is a rarity in today's action-loaded, super-hero movie world with over-the-top-characters, but also as it is a dying breed of science fiction that will make you think. Yes, a Hollywood science fiction flick which makes you think! Mind blowing isn't it?

Like I said, I won't spoil it for you. Just so much: "Arrival" is about an extra-terrestrial race landing on Earth. This is really nothing special in the history of Hollywood film making, but this time those extraterrestrials are so different from humanity in their thinking and culture that a handful of scientists have to think outside the box to learn how to communicate with them. The acting – especially the main character played by Amy Adams – is brilliant, emotional and thoroughly engaging. The film plays with unorthodox views on human behavior, memories and our perception of time.

Does this sound cryptic enough for you? Does it make you curious? Good! Because I really would like you to see it. If you are remotely interested in Science Fiction and think about how a first contact with an extraterrestrial Intelligence entirely different from ours could look, you owe it to yourself to see it. It's well worth the price of admission.I highly recommend it as it is the best movie that came across the big screen in a long time. As of this review, Arrival was in movie theatres only and not avalable on DVD or BlueRay.
This movie is distributed 2016 by Paramount Pictures

WHAT IS SCIENCE?

Article by Herbert Eisengruber

What is science? Who is a scientist? At first glimpse these questions are easy to answer. A quick Google search will reveal the proper definitions, problem solved. For many - including myself - those definitions and scientific research methods are THE cornerstone of our modern world. Without them we wouldn't have made progress in mathematics, physics, chemistry, archaeology and all the other science branches known to man. Scientists all over the world are proud to leave "the dark ages" with all the superstition behind them. Especially in the western world there is a clear division between belief systems like religion and hard scientific facts.Scientists all over the world are also proud of their accomplishments - or better yet accomplishments of their respective sciences - that have been made over the last decades.But are all sciences "made" equal? Are there differences in the way they work, the way they are conducted? Take Math, Physics and Chemistry for example. These are the “classics” of the science world. Each of them deliver indisputable facts 99% of the time. 1+1=2! Who wants to argue with that? If you drop an apple, it will fall on the floor. Indisputably. If you mix certain chemicals, you will get a reaction. Every time. Well, unless you are a high-school teacher and want to do a demonstration in class... but that is a different story.During the Middle Ages, science and scientists had a hard time. The Church ruled with a heavy hand and God was responsible for everything. And uncomfortable questions weren't allowed to be asked. People like Galileo Galilei were hunted down and prosecuted, inconvenient books were burned, and everything that didn't fit into the Church's view of the world was deemed heresy. But science prevailed, eventually.

And here we are! Computers, CT-Scanners, airplanes. We went to the moon and back, sent robots to the edge of the solar system and we can make the atom visible. Aren't we the greatest? We established an education system that ensures that our scientists are on the right track. A system that ensures they follow the rules of science and research procedures. That way we make sure that we don't fall back into the thinking of medieval times.

The big question is, though: Is the "scientific world", which we are so proud of today still the pure, unspoiled and wonderful world that put the Church and its medieval belief system slowly "out of business" over the last centuries.

But are all of the members of the acadamic community still worthy of Issac Newton's heritage?

The answer is as complicated as the science community is diverse. Modern science has to be funded and wherever funding is involved, politics follows next. Another thing to understand is that not all sciences are created equal, a fact that many scientists don't want to hear. Archaeology and the related branches (e.g. Anthropology) are what I consider "soft sciences". While they certainly use scientific methods, they will never be as "clear cut" as e.g. Math and Physics. One discovery in an archaeological dig which doesn't fit in the current model and everything will "fall apart". One might argue that this is true in all sciences branches, but archaeology can be somewhat "special" in that respect. To understand what I'm talking about, one has to understand the "inner workings" of how research, funding and publishing works in the scientific communities and in archaeology in particular (although many other science branches work very similar).

Like everybody else, scientists have to make a living. The times of the starving researcher who sits in a rundown apartment with rain dripping down on his\her head while studying are over. There are very few idealists like this left and understandably so. In today's money driven world, funding (and with it the income for scientists) comes from two sources:

1. University/Government Research grants.
2. Private funding.The latter is certainly the exception, and in archaeological circles, relatively rare. One can

Albert Einstein. The Genius who wouldn't stand a chance in today's scientific and academic world.

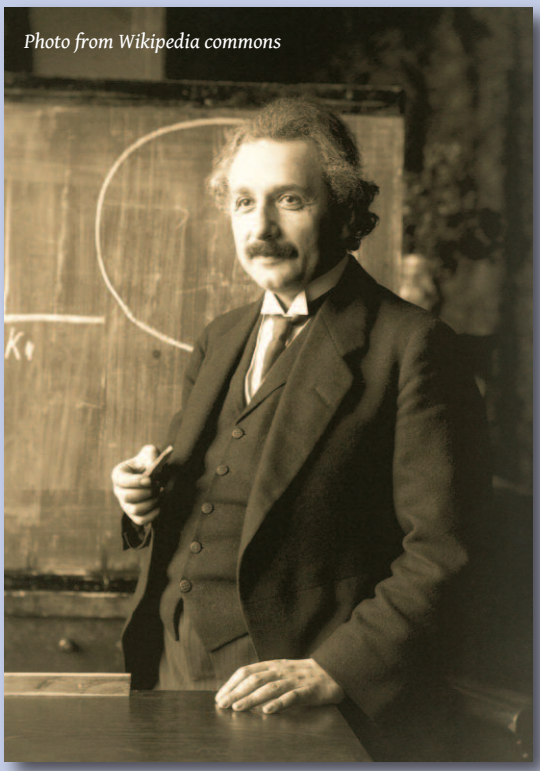

Photo from Wikipedia commons

Einstein graduated school in Switzerland after emigrating there from Germany. The European school system was and is generally different from the North American school system. He graduated in the equivalency of the German "Abitur" (in Switzerland this is called Matura) which is more involved compared to the North American High School diploma. One can think about it as a High School Diploma with 2-3 semesters of University attached. After his graduation, Einstein wanted to find a teaching position, but wasn't successful. He accepted a position in the Patent Office in the Swiss capital Bern where he worked as a patent clerk, evaluating new patent applications. It was during this time that Einstein wrote his most important works, the ones he is the best known today. The year 1905 went down in history as the "annus mirabilis" (the miracle year) when he published four papers that changed modern physics in the magazine "Annalen der Physik". It would be completely unthinkable today, that a clerk in a patent office with no previous academic record and is not part of an already established academic community and their close circles would be published today in *any* scientific publication, let alone taken seriously by the "scientific establishment". In the same year Einstein got awarded a PhD for his papers, also completely unthinkable in today's academic world. It is a tribute to a still more open scientific and academic community during the turn of the last century that somebody like Albert Einstein had the chance to get his word out. It changed our world profoundly.

find privately funded research projects everywhere big profits are involved. Geology (E.g. exploitation of minerals and oil) and medicine are certainly the most prominent fields of privately funded science. This can be wonderful for the progress of human kind, but also includes horrible pitfalls. Private funding - and therefore profit - means money is king. In this world of the mighty dollar, opinions and reports might be available for purchase for the right amount. Some say this could be the reason there are still scientists with significant university degrees denying global warming and will be doing so as long as the bank accounts are filled by the unscrupulous corporations whose interests in profits have to be fulfilled. That doesn't mean all privately funded research is negative. On the contrary. A lot of breakthrough research nowadays is funded by private corporations. Medical research is a good example.

In archaeology, we have to look back about a hundred years to find significant privately funded research and excavations. In fact this type of funding was rather the rule than the exception. We can only look at King Tut's treasures and the ancient city of Troy because of private individuals being generous - and stubborn - enough to get to the treasures. Yes, they did it for profit and fame, as well. That's human nature.

But something like Heinrich Schliemann's (a business man and archaeological amateur) discovery of Troy would not be possible today. Even Albert Einstein - undeniably one of the greatest minds that ever lived - would have no chance in today's scientific community. Why is that? What happened?

Young archaeology students have to decide very early in their career what field they want to specialize in. In reality, there is no such thing as an 'archaeologist' anymore. Archaeology has become so specialized, graduates are now Egyptologists, Sumerologist, Mayaologists and all the other ...ologists known in archaeological circles. Of course, that's because of the complexity of the individual fields. But for young individuals interested in our ancient past it can be a tricky choice to make upfront, especially as not all universities offer the programs the student is interested in. Depending on the country the student is from, it might not even be possible to get into the desired field, university or professor of choice, at all. Let alone the financial constraints of students who might not get the necessary student loans to get into the programs they desire or simply cannot afford to go to University because of their life's circumstances.

In the field of archaeology this can be much more significant than other fields, as students tend to be drawn to one specific field of study more than others. It is a huge difference if you have to study Medieval German archaeology because no Egyptology class is available for example. But it is these kind of "compromises" that archaeology students have to face their whole career, if they are lucky to even have one. For the "hearty" students that decide to stick with the field, other problems will soon arise. Archaeology is notoriously plagued by a constant lack of funding, for the simple fact that very little profit can be made. The oversaturated modern media world is only interested in the "big finds", the

spectacular treasures. The problem of funding is a constant source of headache in many an archaeologist's life and noumerous talented individuals are forced to either teach halfway related subjects (like history in high school) or take on every assignment they can possibly get. I have experienced this in many personal conversations with fully trained archaeologists over the years. During my own year of archaeological studies, my teacher - a highly acclaimed archaeologist - had to rely on his salary as a teacher to pay his bills, while his excellent and passionate work as curator in the main museum of one of the most historic towns in Germany was on a voluntary basis. He knew that once he stopped, the museum and its collection would have probably been dissolved.

There is funding for archaeological projects, but it is usually so scarce that archaeologists quite literally fight over it. And unfortunately, this will be the time when politics come into play.

The sad truth in science nowadays is that it becomes much less important what you know, but who you know. "Social networking" is the key to success. That was always the case in business and it becomes more important in science and research every day.

Each branch of science has its "superstars" and their trusty followers, who usually control - well - pretty much everything. They, and their influence on boards and committees, decide how funding and research grants are directed, who gets teamed up with who and so forth. You get the picture. Students who want to be successful have to learn quickly who to associate with and - more importantly - who to quote in their own works.

The repercussions are severe if you have a theory which doesn't fit within the "superstars" view of the world and god help you if you voice - or worse - publish it. Do you think this sounds too extreme? Think again. The best example for this "game" in recent years was certainly Dr. Zahi Hawass, the most "decorated" and celebrated star archaeologist Egypt has seen in a long time. He single handedly controlled not only what was happening on the famous Giza plateau, but most of Egyptian archaeology in general. He and his entourage not only approved and denied excavations on the Giza Plateau, but also if TV crews and documentary film makers got permission to film around Giza. This went so far that Mr. Hawass had to be - sorry - was featured in - pretty much every program on TV regarding the Giza Plateau. This culminated in the controversial National Geographic show xxx which aired xxx in which he was the "hero" overseeing two "excavations" live on TV with millions of viewers worldwide.

All this seemed to have stopped suddenly after the revolution in Egypt, the so called "Arab Spring". Since then, Mr. Hawass has been surprisingly absent from the public eye. Even his Web presence was gone for a while, and the new site seems to present a more private man raising funds with guiding tourists to Egyptian sites. It seems that now he has to do the same basic grass roots fund raising like many of his private and professional colleagues. While I truly wish Dr. Hawass all the best in his endeavors, I think his example shows how closely intertwined science and politics can be these days. Connections rule!

Certainly the most extreme examples of politics influencing archaeology can be found in Israel/Palestine and the Middle East. If you want to inform yourself about the subject, I urge my readers to watch Simcha Jacobovici's excellent program "The Naked Archaeologist". Some views of the officials in charge interviewed in the programs will make your hair stand up, and the policies on who can or cannot do archaeological excavations or research in the area will make your toes curl. It shows that the "academic elite" which prides itself with unbiased, fact-driven views of the world is just as prejudiced by political and religious views than anybody else. It looks like an academic degree does not protect you from such things.

The roles of amateurs in research

Can an amateur be a scientist or researcher?

"Science" is a word that the English language derived from the Latin "Scientia" where it simply means "knowledge". German speakers have an advantage with the definition of the word. In German, science is called "Wissenschaft", which is comprised of two parts: "Wissen" which means "knowledge" and "Schaffen", which means "creating". So by this definition a "Wissenschaftler" (scientist) is a person who creates knowledge. In its purest form, this definition is a non-discriminatory one. Anybody can create knowledge no matter of their academic background. But when have you ever heard or seen anybody who is an amateur (meaning not having an academic degree) being acknowledged as a "scientist"?

If you see a fantastic photograph do you care if a "professional" photographer took it? In fact, many photographers have a problem with the definition "professional". Some say it's a person who makes the bulk of their money with photography, others say anybody who makes money with their photography. Others purely define it by the quality of the photographs. Never once have I met anybody that defines it by the photographer's educational background or where he/she was trained. Where would we be if only works of painters with a fine arts background would be considered worthy to be in our museums? The museums would be pretty empty, that's for sure. In fact it's pretty

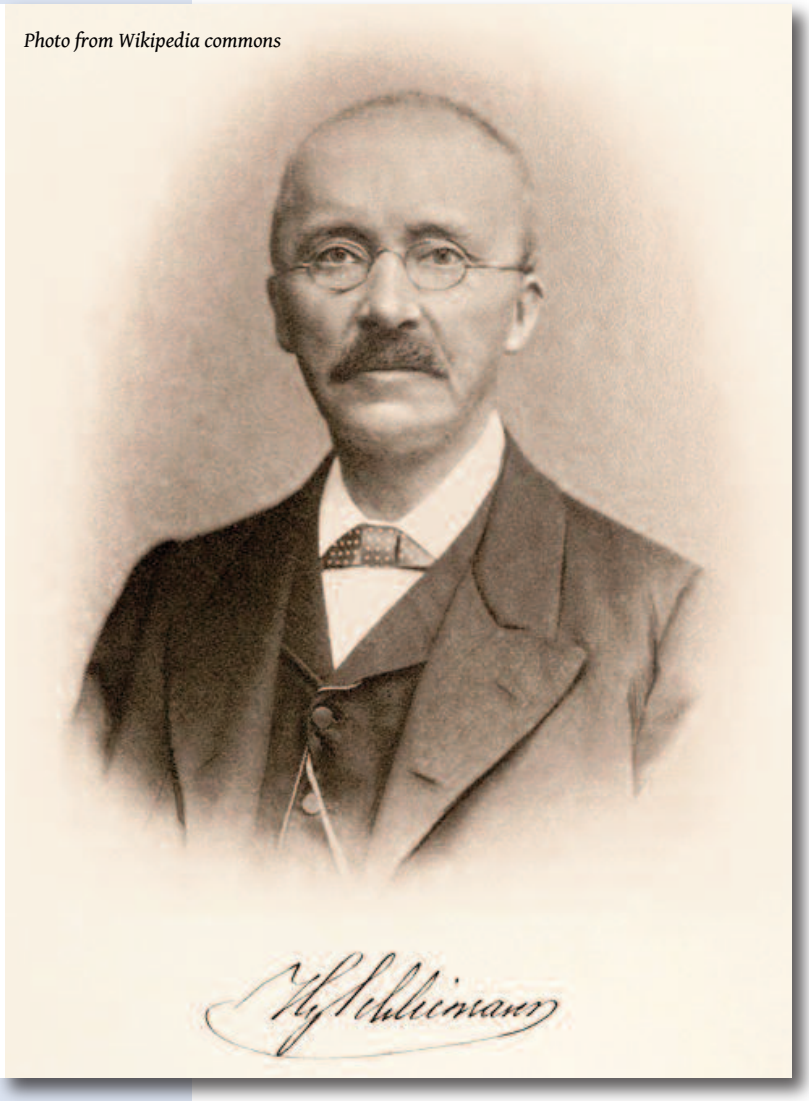

Photo from Wikipedia commons

Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890) was a German businessman and "hobby archaeologist". He was convinced to find the ancient city of Troy by following Greek writer Homer in his famous Illiad. At the time, most archaeologists laughed at the idea to follow an ancient "fictional" story to conduct an archaeological excavation. Schliemann spent his own money to get an excavation permit and conducted an excavation. He found Troy just were the ancient text said it would be.

amazing how many fine arts academics study the works of complete "amateurs" like Van Gogh or Monet. Like I said in the beginning of this article, Albert Einstein wouldn't have a chance nowadays.

So why does the scientific community in archaeology seem to be so different? I think the answer is as simple as it is scary:

The medieval mind set never really left! It just "changed sides". The "ruling class", the medieval "cast of priests", the "defenders of the earth being flat" are now "hiding" within the scientific communities. They claim to obey by the scientific ground rules by controlling them themselves. Meanwhile the most basic scientific rule of all is violated on a continuous basis: The constant questioning of "established" results and theories. Academics who ask uncomfortable questions are being muzzled, defamed, ridiculed and expelled. Exactly in this order and not at all dissimilar to what the church did hundreds of years ago.

Non academics with new ideas are ignored at first and if they won't go away they are being ridiculed and accused to be "pseudo-scientific", or - even worse - to follow a "religious believe system". Potentially new fields of study are being denied entry into academic structures like universities, funding and ultimately the exposure to new, fresh, bright minds. (Google "Graham Hancock TED talks" to get more insight on this)

Cross studying, "thinking out loud" and "thinking outside the box is generally discouraged, especially in Archaeology. Although it was exactly this out-of-the-box way of thinking that delivered major scientific breakthroughs in the past.

The academic structures in the western world generally closed its doors to "sideline intelligence" by making academic degrees the basis of which an opinion is allowed to be formed. Without a degree, an opinion has no validity. I don't know about you, but this mind set sends cold shivers down my spine.

An opinion that doesn't fit in the general, classical view will not be supported let alone published.This has gone so far that some leading academics will not acknowledge archaeological finds not made during official excavations led by an archaeological team! The implications are unimaginable. The influence of academics that think that way is getting so strong that in recent years major archaeological finds had to be fought over in court (!) to get authenticated. The "star disk of Nebra", in Germany and the "James Oshuary" in Israel are just two examples. How many important finds are dismissed every year because of this? Some say those rules are in place to eliminate treasure hunters going out and "vandalizing" important sites. Sure, but why not offer courses for "amateurs" and "treasure hunters" through colleges and universities to correctly deal with important finds? I don't know about you, but I rather look at the "Star Disk of Nebra" found by two amateurs with a metal detector than not looking at it, because trained archaeologists didn't find it at all. How many important finds disintegrate in our more and more acidic soils because official excavations ran out of funding or haven't been started at all because some committee decided not to dig there.

I'm fully aware that the above sounds very philosophical and even a bit pessimistic. But I think it is very important to understand that not all is well in the scientific communities. Especially in the world of "official" archaeology. That being said, it has to be emphasized that most archaeologists (and scientists) are excellent, highly trained professionals with integrity and curiosity. Over the years I made many fantastic connections, had outstanding conversations with academics who are pri-

vately much more open to "alternative theories" as when they speak in an official capacity. A lot of those individuals are not even aware that things are wrong because they are trained not to "step out of bounds".

The future of scientific education?

Let's make a cut here and have a look into the jungle. Yes, the jungle. Here, amongst wild animals, poisonous plants and trees, a little boy is born to an indigenous tribe. The boy grows up and his father shows him the art of hunting. Like their forefathers, they hunt with spears. The boy gets better and better at throwing the spear, and after a while, he can skillfully hit the monkey in the tree 200 yards away. By the time he has grown up he is a successful hunter.

Thousands of miles away another boy is born. This time to parents living in a big city in a Western country. The boy grows up, discovers his love for physics and studies it. He learns about Newton, gravity, ballistics and everything related. He becomes a professor of Physics and teaches at a University. He knows how throwing a spear works. In principle. He can calculate its trajectory, can compensate for its weight, for the wind speed, the ballistics, knows how gravity affects a spear. In short, he knows the science behind the spear-throwing process.

Now what would happen if the two boys, now grown men, meet? Can the Physics professor throw the spear and kill an animal? Most likely not. Does the hunter know about the physics behind the process? Most likely not. Yet both are talking - and thinking - about the exact same thing. They just have a different approach to get to it, to understand and apply it. Spears have been successfully thrown for thousands of years before science has figured out how and what exactly is going on during this process. The same can be said with medical plants in the jungle. The ancient people knew what plants heal what disease, in what dose and how to prepare them, long before chemists have figured out what's in them and how exactly they interact with the body. They successfully applied this knowledge for millennia without knowing the exact scientific principles of why the medications work. They do that to this day and if you want to be amazed, I can recommend a tour through the Amazon Jungle with a local guide. The indigenous knowledge about the medical plants is mind blowing and every pharmacist could learn a thing or two from local healers.

So what approach is more or less "scientific"? Does it really matter how somebody got to the right conclusion?

What about the future of science then? Do we in the so called "Western World" continue on the path of "academics only"? Or do we want to open the doors to the experience and intuition of other people who might have gotten to the right conclusions by different means, other than the "regular" way of established education? Do we want to include the incredible intellectual power of the "poor" or "unfortunate" in the world that do not have the means to go to conventional schools? Would "our" sciences benefit from a closer look at unconventional methods of e.g. healing which was developed by the same shamans, medicine men who know the incredible power of medicinal plant in the jungle thousands of years ago? Are the "ghosts" and "spirits" those people talk about nothing but another part of science, a branch that we in our "Western World arrogance" have just not discovered or understood yet? Remember, a spear was thrown long before Newton told us about the Why. Do we need another "Newton" in the future to realize that what the ancient people told us in their myths and legends, cave drawings and carvings are actually a part of science which they could handle and manipulate by experience and intuition?

Personally, I think that our society is on a crossroads. Either we keep an open mind to new ideas from any direction (academic or not) or we continue the path of "locking" science up to a few select people. If we follow the later, my fear is that we will sooner rather than later end up in a medieval type world full of dogma, prejudice and arrogance. A world so many scientists in the last 400 years fought and sometimes even died for.

If we don't open our Universities up for researchers that have different views and new ideas (like the PaleoSeti or Lost Civilization Theories) how can we advance and create knowledge effectively? What is there to be afraid of? What is the worst that can happen? That we might have to set some records straight or revise some history books?

My hope is that the "Open source movement" spearheaded by free sites like Wikipedia which provides free knowledge within seconds and a few key presses - even to people that said 20 years ago that it will never work and will never be a substitute to for-profit encyclopedias – will force certain academics who think they control knowledge - to change their ways. The next internet revolution is on its way and sites like edX.org will provide free education, courses and degrees for ALL the people around the globe if they work hard. Young people all over the globe are sick an tired to come out of University and Colleges run profit interests more then anything else and have to start their careers with dept, sometimes in the hundred thousands. I predict that in the twenty years from now the first students will graduate from free Internet Universities that offer courses in all science branches, not just the "convenient" ones. Those Universities and Colleges will be available to all the people in the world wherever there is an Internet connection, no matter if they sit in the Amazon jungle or the middle of New York. That's when we will see how smart the rest of the world can be. And then we will see the next "Quantum Leap" – the future of Science!

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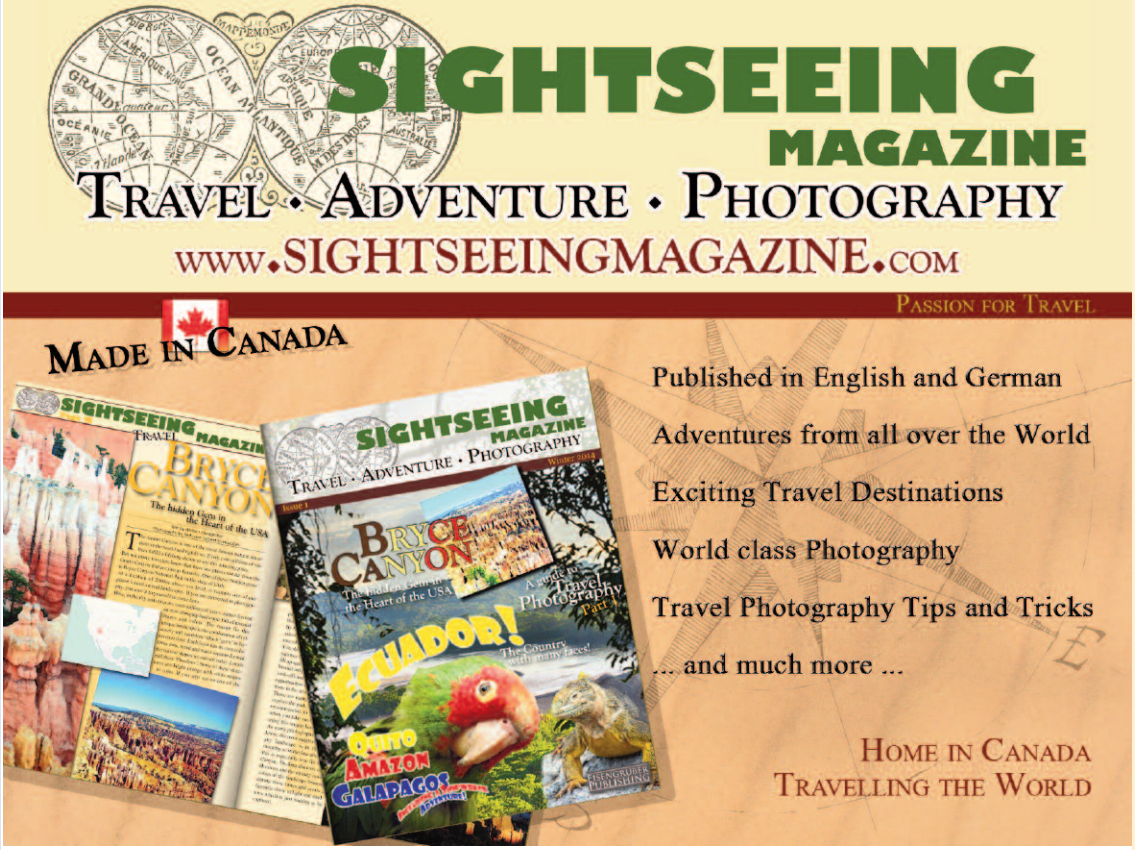

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The mysterious Externstones of Germany will interest us in a future issue of PaleoSeti Magazine.

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Please check out our website at www.paleoseti.com for more background information and much more PaleoSeti research. www.paleoseti.com is in its 15th online year and one of the longest running websites dealing with the Ancient Astronaut Theory.

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